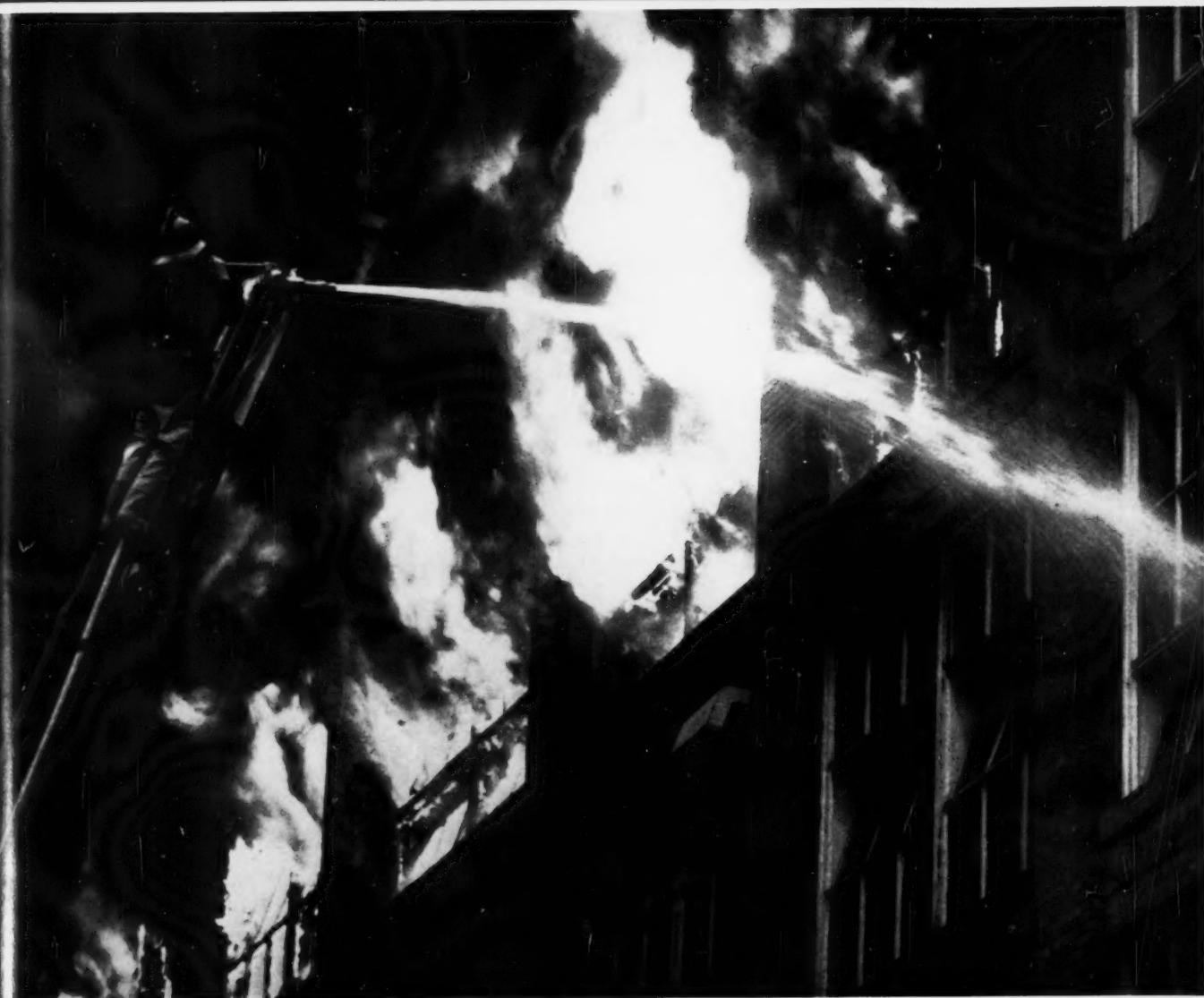


VOL. 2 No. 3 MARCH 1960

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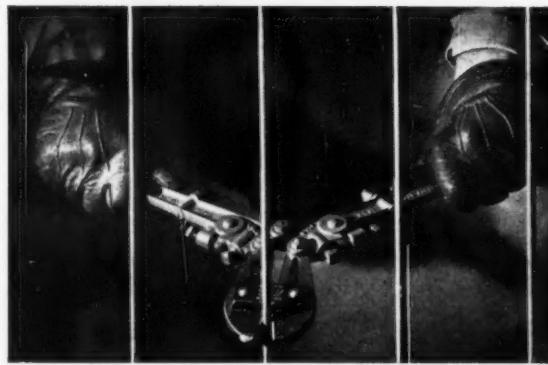
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SECURITY GAZETTE

VOL 2 No. 3 MARCH, 1960

Associate Editor:

SIR RONALD HOWE, C.V.O., M.C.

Published by

SECURITY GAZETTE LTD.
5 & 6 CLEMENT'S INN, LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone: CHAncery 5774/5

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COVER PICTURE: *A vivid picture of operations
against the devastating fire last month at the Dunlop
Cotton Mill in Rochdale. A first report on this
blaze appears within. Photo by D. Worrall.*

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Gaining Control

FIGURES now coming from the police forces in various parts of the country suggest that the alarming increase in the figures of crime over the past two years is now coming to a halt, and indeed, in certain areas, is showing a decline. The position applies to both urban as well as the country districts and also to the capital itself, the main core of criminal activity. Thus, already, this year is showing signs of producing dividends for the massive anti-crime effort put in in recent months. It was inevitable, of course, that the upward trend would show a check at some point. The fact that worried the authorities was the continuance of the trend beyond its "normal" precedent. But now there are firm indications that the cumulative battle against crime is producing the long desired results. As Mr. Butler himself has said at the fire protection conference: "In the field of crime I have been able for the last three years to start a variety of modern research which has yielded strong fruits." Few Chief Constables at the moment will be inclined to take more than a barely optimistic view of future developments, yet at this stage the public police forces must be congratulated on the magnificent approach they have generally shown to the crime problem.

It is difficult to separate the influence of different approaches to this common problem. The re-organization of a force can produce immediate benefits in detection; equally the implementation of crime prevention campaigns over a period has made a significant contribution; but there is a third force which must not be neglected in assessing the value of the various factors. This is the rapidly developing industrial security movement. The mere fact that there exists throughout the country hundreds of experienced security officers tackling crime on the spot and instituting regular measures of crime prevention can only have increased the total deployment of strength against the criminal. Their efforts have been backed by the highly skilled and technical contribution of many security firms. The *Gazette* is proud of the part it has played in helping to put this industrial security effort on a firmer and more extensive basis. Fortunately, the importance of good security is becoming increasingly recognised by police forces and industry as a whole, so that the months ahead ought to reveal still better progress.

All this does not mean, however, that we can afford to sit back. There is still ample evidence of the ability

of the modern criminal to take advantage of any defect in police organization and industrial security. The important thing now is to seize the opportunity of the present lull to push forward with yet more active policies and measures. We were glad to see that another recommendation by the *Gazette* has been acted upon by Scotland Yard in their co-operation with the B.B.C. to supply a series of films for television which will display the difficulties and achievements of day to day police work. Such a plan should have nation-wide benefits, but there is no reason why other forces, too, should not now seek closer ties with their local communities through these media of mass communication. Some of the difficulties confronting the crime prevention officer were discussed at the No. 5 district conference reported within. Perhaps the common point is the necessity to maintain public interest by constantly evolving imaginative techniques of publicity. This means, in other words, the recognition that crime prevention is a long-term battle which must be maintained however encouraging or disappointing local results may be from time to time.

Finally, the moment is opportune for a review also of police organization. This falls within the sphere of the Royal Commission's terms of reference. There is evidence that police chiefs themselves are well aware of the need for self-initiative on the subject. Mr. Albert Rowsell, Chief Constable of Brighton, for instance, made the point recently that, though he was anxious not to see any change in the system of local control, some central organization for dealing with crime might be necessary. The form such an organization might take requires careful thought. To some extent it might grow naturally from previous regional groupings which have shown the clear merit of regional co-operation. The *Gazette* was pleased to see that its own views were thus paralleled by Mr. Rowsell's reflections. The essential thing is to approach this whole question with an open mind so that while traditional local allegiances and methods of democratic control are retained, the police forces of the country move like a well co-ordinated army against crime, which itself has a national structure and basis. Mr. Nightingale's article in this issue shows the sort of benefits that can come from discussing a region's problems of prevention as a whole. This Essex precedent ought now to be extended to other regions so that a national fund of knowledge and experience can be rapidly built up.

A POLICE LABORATORY AT WORK

Links to Chemistry and Medicine

By Detective Superintendent J. K. McLELLAN, M.A., B.Sc., A.R.I.C.

LAST year the writer was privileged to address the Society of Chemical Industry at its symposium in Glasgow on various aspects of the link between chemists and the police. At the commencement of the address, acknowledgment was made of the assistance given to police enquiry by those persons engaged in the technical side of manufacture. Close links have been forged between many members of the audience and the City of Glasgow Police. From these links a great deal of knowledge has been acquired about manufactured products and their analysis but more important, in time of need, advice, samples and, on many occasions, apparatus have been immediately available.

As illustration of this, mention might be made of two cases, the first of which was an unsavoury one concerning an offence against a boy in an air-raid shelter. Naturally there were no witnesses apart from the complainant, but an examination of the clothing of the accused revealed tiny particles of a peculiar glass which was also present on the earthen floor of the shelter. A description of this glass was telephoned late in the afternoon to the Glasgow office of a well-known firm and the same day a reply was received from them giving information which they had obtained from their works in the Midlands in which the glass was identified. Furthermore, they had, on the same day, dispatched two samples of this glass to arrive with the morning train.

The second case concerned a parcel which the recipient had every reason to believe might contain a bomb. Before an attempt was made to open the parcel, it was taken to a large engineering firm where it was X-rayed and shown to be harmless.

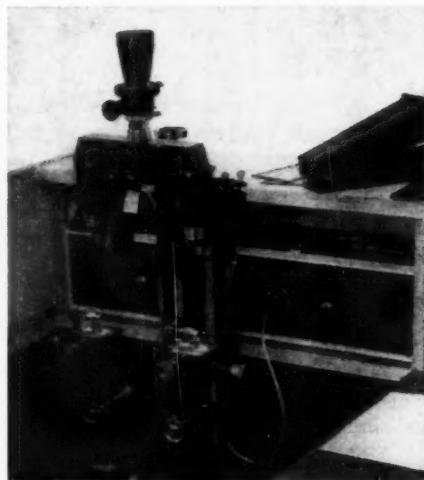
Few occasions are ever afforded for the writer and his colleagues to reciprocate, but on occasions he has been able to offer advice on problems of internal thefts.

Development of Skills

Science in police investigations has grown out of the need for the same degree of expert attention at minor crimes as is given to major crimes. These major crimes nearly always involve some offence against the person, and in the past the medical expert who was called in to deal with these also turned his attention to clues involving other sciences. For minor crimes and offences, broadly speaking, no scientific help was, however, available.

This pattern has been greatly changed by the growth of laboratories directly connected with police work where chemists and biologists are ready to give atten-

A ballistics comparator, with two bullets positioned, in the Glasgow laboratory.



tion to any case irrespective of importance. This has resulted in a great improvement in the standard of police investigation with a corresponding benefit to the public.

The work comes to the Laboratory either by the hands of the investigating officers, their messengers, post or rail. In the extremely serious crimes or where there is difficulty in collecting the productions or knowing what is a production, the Laboratory staff goes to the locus and carry out its examination. The work involves the examination of any type of material and the Laboratory staff must have a general knowledge and, more important, a means by which any deficiencies of knowledge or technique can be quickly corrected.

Safe-blowing Techniques

The most regular type of investigation is in connection with explosives which are stolen and misapplied, principally for safe-blowing. This crime is carried out by inserting a charge in the keyhole of a safe lock and detonating it by a fuse-type or electrical detonator. In the writer's opinion, this form of crime should be dying out with the introduction of modern safes. One reason for its continuance is the failure to recognise the two functions of safes—protection against fire and protection against thieves. There is a considerable difference in price between these types and, due to ignorance or false economy, a fireproof safe is often used for the storage of valuables. This error is responsible for most of the

successful safe-blowings. Where a thief-proof safe succumbs to attack it is often due to it being out-dated and in that respect it is a pity that safes do not suffer wear and tear as does machinery. Modern thief-proof safes are fitted with anti-explosive devices and sometimes combination locks, and few of these are successfully attacked.

The explosives used in these criminal efforts are normally the ones which are commercially available but occasionally for one reason or another a safe-blower is found to be using an explosive of his own manufacture or modification. This affords a ready means of connecting one safe-blowing with another. On six occasions within a close radius in Glasgow potassium perchlorate explosives were used in safe-blowings—which showed that the attempts were obviously the work of one person.

Dangerous Explosives

Usually safe cracksmen are experienced in the handling of their materials but explosives can be used for other purposes too, which make bigger demands for a chemical laboratory's resources—in sabotage, for example, or political demonstrations. In these fields the persons engaged usually have not an equal means of access to commercial explosives and the investigator tends to come across laboratory-made or home-made materials which are a source of danger both to their users and to the police. Types which may be mentioned are mercuric fulminate and silver acetylide.

On the other hand accidental explosions in buildings and ships bring a different sort of human difficulty. They are very frequently due to the leakage of gas, or of volatile liquids which may seem a relatively simple cause to determine. Nonetheless, the tracing of their cause is often rendered complex by the reluctance of persons responsible for the use of these fluids to admit to any error in their handling or in the proper observance of safety precautions.

Co-operation with Doctors

Though much time is taken up for the laboratory's staff by enquiries into the categories mentioned above, the most interesting cases to come our way, from a professional point of view, are those carried out in co-operation with the medical officers. Undoubtedly some of this work, such as the estimation of alcohol in connection with road users, or of carbon monoxide in cases of accidental gassing, or of barbiturates in accidental poisoning, is routine, but the investigation of sudden deaths and suicides, and the use of drugs is a sphere of great variety calling for a close relationship with the medical approach and requiring a high degree of knowledge and attention to detail.

Of topical interest is the practice of chemical tests for motorists believed to be drunk. Their value as a support to the medical examiner is beyond doubt. But it is not always realised that they can protect the individual being examined. On many occasions a driver has been indebted to their objectivity, and equally to the science of chemical investigation when a driver challenges the opinion of the medical examiner. One case is on record, for example, where a driver was responsible for a death on the road and he asserted that his

victim was not knocked down but run over. Analysis of a sample of body fluid from the victim revealed that he was probably in a state of coma due to alcohol at the time of the incident.

Poisons and Drugs

In this general field of enquiry, the use of chemicals as poisons is important and of specialist application. Few cases are, in fact, recorded in this country of murder by poisoning. Two examples in the experience of the writer are poisoning by arsenic and drugging by chloroform prior to suffocation. But the use of chemicals in connection with suicides is naturally much wider. Cyanide, phosphorus, oxalic acid and strychnine are substances which have been encountered in addition, of course, to overdoses of pharmaceutical preparations.

The use of drugs is a problem which receives much publicity, particularly with the prevalence in the use of modern types of sedatives which must be considered as a form of addiction. Drug addiction of the second and more traditional method is, however, not rare in the area of this Laboratory and only on isolated occasions is Indian hemp encountered. Opium has been received in the laboratory on one occasion in 17 years, although there have been several false alarms. One amusing instance concerned a Chinese pharmacist's preparation, which was properly labelled, but unfortunately, in Chinese!

Tracing Property Owners

The ownership of articles is often a matter which is referred to the laboratory. The lost property departments accumulate quantities of material, some of which is unlabelled. Analysis of this material is sometimes useful in tracing the owner. Examples which come to mind are magnesium chloride for use in composition flooring, calcium silicide in the manufacture of cast-iron, and most particularly, a drum of potassium cyanide for use in vermin destruction. Analysis in these cases led to restoration.

Property found in the possession of thieves and obviously stolen can be traced with some ease when the owners have reported the thefts and described the articles. The laboratory comes more into its own when the property has been altered especially in cases involving the defacing of serial numbers. Techniques are available which "restore" the numbers and enable the owner to claim his goods. Yet we should not overlook the occasions when an owner of property is extremely unwilling to have his connection discovered! They range from counterfeiting to the poisoning of fish or industrial river pollution—each activities that can incur the law.

Finally, as police investigators, our duties enable us to help the individual citizen in trouble from accidents, sometimes of a domestic nature. The handling of charred documents or the identification of serial numbers on charred banknotes are undertaken where there is no criminal connection. Even so, the laboratory gains for the experience gained in this form of benevolence is extremely useful when enquiry into suspected embezzlement and fraud demands the identification of charred fragments. On two occasions at least, in which charred paper was presented as being the remains of banknotes, restoration led to successful prosecution for fraud.

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Personalia



Mr. Thomas Moore

NOTTINGHAM'S NEW CHIEF

With Home Office approval, Mr. Thomas Moore, assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, has been appointed to succeed Captain Popkess as Chief Constable of Nottingham. Mr. Moore, who is 56, takes up his new post in April.

Mr. J. R. Jones

The new Chief Constable of Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire is Mr. John Ronald Jones, aged 49, divisional Superintendent of the Mid-Wales Constabulary. He succeeds Mr. T. Hubert Lewis.

A Welsh-speaker, Mr. Jones started his career as a constable in the Metropolitan Police Force in 1930 and, after three years, joined the Breconshire Constabulary, which was amalgamated with the Mid-Wales Constabulary in 1948.

The Home Office refused to sanction his appointment in 1958 by the Mid-Wales Combined Police Authority as Chief Constable because of its policy concerning local appointments.

FROM HALIFAX TO BURNLEY

The successor to Mr. R. A. Noble, G.M., now chief at Derby, as Chief Constable of Burnley, is to be Superintendent L. Massey, M.B.E., deputy Chief Constable of Halifax. Mr. Massey, who is aged 51, has served at Halifax since 1933, apart from war service.

March, 1960

YARD CHANGES

A number of important promotions and moves have taken place in the Metropolitan Police C.I.D. Following the retirement last month of deputy Commander William Rawlings, on reaching the age limit, his place has been taken by Chief Detective Superintendent Colin McDougall.

In turn Supt. McDougall's position as head of the Fraud Squad is now taken by Detective Chief Superintendent Albert Griffin, who moves over from being in charge of the Murder Squad. One of Supt. Griffin's cases was the Christie murders at Notting Hill.

He is succeeded by Detective Chief Superintendent Joseph Kennedy, formerly head of No. 1 Division, who is relieved by Detective Superintendent R. Lewis, promoted Chief.

Research and Planning

Detective Superintendent E. Millen, recently appointed to the Yard's research and planning department, is promoted Chief Supt. Eight detective superintendents have switched to other divisions to help in the crime fight.

'Daily Mirror' Security

Following his retirement from the Yard, Detective Chief Inspector Herbert Iredale has joined the *Daily Mirror* as security officer. Mr. Iredale ended his police service at Cannon Row, the station which is responsible for safeguarding the Royal residences.



CHAIRMAN OF F.G.S. Ltd.



Sir Ronald Howe, C.V.O., M.C., formerly deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and head of the C.I.D., has become chairman of Factory Guard System Ltd., the industrial security company which has its headquarters in Birmingham. Managing director of the company is Mr. N. E. Trollstad. Its Swedish parent firm is the largest of its kind outside the U.S.

B.T.C. Police Promotions

Among recent promotions in the British Transport Commission Police, Superintendent F. Brewer, Commandant of the Training School, becomes Assistant Chief of Police, Western Area.

Others involve C.I.D. changes. Inspector Cl. 2 Race of Newcastle becomes Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 1 at Grimsby; Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 2 Thorpe, Northampton, moves to Euston as Inspector Cl. 1; Inspector Cl. 2 Lucas, Exeter, to Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 1, Bristol; Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 2 Pople is made Cl. 1 in London Transport Division. Sergeant Stammers becomes Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 1, at Victoria, and Sergeant Bornor, Inspector, C.I.D., Cl. 1, at Streatham Hill.

Left: Chief Superintendent John W. Goyder, appointed Assistant Commissioner of the City of London Police. He succeeded Capt. Hubert Griffiths, who retired at the end of February. Supt. Goyder is a former police boxing champion.

Scottish Representative



To enter the field of industrial security is a natural step for retiring policemen. But one who did so caused the wheel to come full circle by returning to the homeland scenes which he had left some 40 years before. He is Mr. Peter Beveridge, M.B.E., who for some time has represented the Burgot burglar alarm company in Scotland.

It has been written of him that he first decided to seek a career in London when marching through the city's streets in the First World War. Having a family police background in Scotland, he joined the Metropolitan Force in 1919 and quickly moved to the C.I.D. After reaching the rank of Inspector in 1934, promotion came steadily along and in 1945 he attained the exalted—and onerous—position every recruit has in his mind's eye: Detective Chief Superintendent, one of the famous "Big Four". In charge of the North London area, he had 48 stations and 240 C.I.D. men under his direction.

Mr. Beveridge has given an account of those years in a successful book—"Inside the C.I.D.". But he sums them up as "wonderful days," saying "I enjoyed every moment of my police work." After dealing with the I.R.A., the Blackshirts, and 24 murder cases, life now may seem to run a placid course, but crime will always hold its fascination for him.

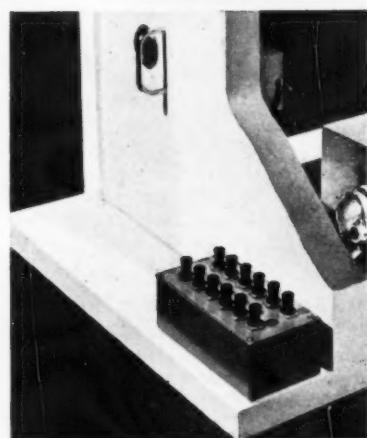
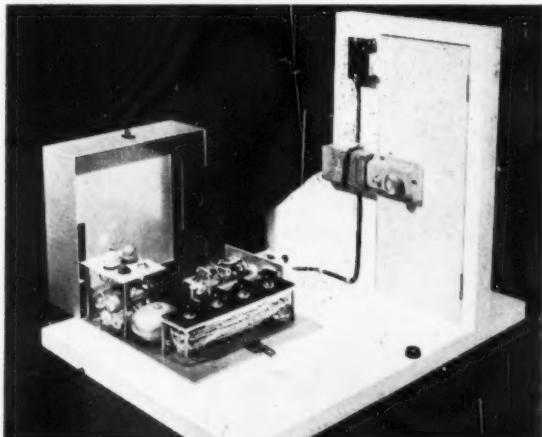
A. V. ROE RECRUIT

Station Officer Bray, who recently retired after 30 years with Manchester City Fire Brigade, has joined the fire staff of A. V. Roe Ltd., Chadderton.

Technical Information
ELECTRICAL COMBINATION DOOR LOCK

*First pictures of the new lock.
Right: the apparatus in wiring position to a door.*

Below: the set of buttons for operation.



MR. E. W. DAWS

Another Yard man to enter industrial security is Detective Chief Superintendent Edmund W. Daws. After 32 years' service, he has moved to the St. Martins Preserving Co. Ltd. as chief security officer. Mr. Daws travelled abroad a good deal in his police career. One of his latest cases was investigating the double murder by Ronald Chesney, who committed suicide in Germany.

Obituary

Sir Frank Brook

We regret to report the death on 16th February at the age of 76 of Lt.-Col. Sir Frank Brook, a former Chief Constable of the West Riding, and one of the most distinguished policemen of his generation. From 1935 to 1953 he was one of H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary for England and Wales.

As Chief Constable of Nottingham after the First World War he initiated a complete reorganisation of the Force, and after going to the West Riding in 1929 his work placed the Yorkshire Force in the forefront of the country's police. He was responsible for establishing its training school, and his other work on many national committees showed the keenness of his desire to raise police efficiency and standing.

Members of the electronics staff at the Aldermaston research station of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority have produced a new form of lock which can be applied to doors, safes, or larger installations such as hangars. A number of switches are pressed in changeable code combination. If the wrong buttons are pressed, or the right buttons in the wrong order, the device sounds an alarm. The 12 buttons, of which, say, four might be taken, offer a very wide range of combinations.

The lock has been evolved to meet the varying needs of the A.E.A.'s establishments, but the authority is aware of its commercial possibilities and is open to a licensing agreement. Several firms have expressed an interest in the development though no agreement has yet been made.

Recording Lost and Found Property

By T. Guy Sanders

Division Security Officer, I.C.I. Metals Division

WE all know that property found *in a public place* is dealt with by the regular Police and that found on public service vehicles is handed to the operators of the service, both of whom keep accurate records, but what of property found in a *private place*, e.g. within the perimeter fence of a factory?

The law on this matter is that the proprietor of such premises has a right of possession to found property against all persons except the actual owner, provided he has done all he can to discover him. It is therefore important that a set of rules should be formulated for dealing with property found in any factory.

Obviously a security officer, if there is one, is a good channel through which all matters concerned with both lost and found property can be routed, and these notes on an example of an actual system in operation may be of value to chief officers and managements.

A "Lost and Found Property Bureau" introduced in a Midlands factory employing 10,000 persons was established in 1950 and as some 9,000 reports of lost and found property have been already dealt with since that time the procedures laid down have been fully tested in practice.

Notice to Staff

First, to inform employees about the system, a colourful printed notice was displayed on all notice boards in the factory. It was headed "Findings Not Keepings" and drew attention to the fact that any article of found property could be handed to the Works Police who would ensure its safe custody until the owner came forward or, if it was not claimed after a period of three months, it would be returned to the finder against his signature

on a form of indemnity. Likewise those who had lost articles were encouraged to report their losses.

FOUND PROPERTY

All found property handed to a Works Policeman at any of the six entrance gates is made the subject of a report which is sent to the main gate police office together with the property. Details to be recorded include:

- a Time, date and place where found.
- b Time and date handed to policeman.
- c Name, department, and private address of finder.
- d Description of the property.

If requested a receipt is given for the article received. Particulars of the finding of such property are then entered in a "Detained Property Book" which has the following printed headings:

Column

- 1 Item number (consecutively).
- 2 Date, time, and place where found.
- 3 Department and address of finder.
- 4 Description of property.
- 5 Form—when sent.

Column 5, "Form—when sent", relates to one of two forms reproduced below which speak for themselves.

Form F.P.3

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would inform you that thefound by you in this factory and handed to the Works Police onhas been claimed byto whom the article/s were handed on.....against his/her signature in the

Works Police Detained Property Book, item No.....

Your name and address, as the finder of the property in question, has been supplied to the claimant.

Thank you for your action in handing the property you found to the Works Police who, as you now know, maintain a bureau at.....for dealing with lost and found articles in the factory.

Signed.....

Form F.P.1

(Sent after expiration of three months.)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The.....found by you and handed to the Works Police onhas not been claimed.

You may now apply for its return to you and I shall be glad if you will call at this office to sign a form of indemnity when the article in question will be handed to you.

If you do not wish to claim the article please endorse this form accordingly and return it to the undersigned.

Signed.....

The "Form of Indemnity" mentioned in the Form F.P.1 is as follows:

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge having received thefound by me on.....and I undertake to indemnifyagainst any claim or demand which may be made against the Company in respect of this property.

(Signed)

(Witness)

(Date)

Unclaimed property is kept for a further nine months and then, if of small value only, is sent to Surplus Disposals Department. Articles of value are retained for a further

period (five years) before disposal. All unclaimed cash is handed to the company's cashier.

LOST PROPERTY

Reports of loss of property are dealt with in a similar manner. The Works Policeman receiving a report of a loss records the following particulars:

- a Time, date, and place where lost.
- b Time, date, and place of report to policeman.
- c Name, address, and department of loser.
- d Description of the property.

These particulars are indexed so that reports of property found can be compared with reports of losses.

Form L.P.1

Enquiries are made and after a period of seven to 10 days the following form (L.P.1) is sent to the loser:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enquiries have been made by the Works Police regarding your loss of.....on.....but so far without success.

Particulars have been recorded in the Lost and Found Property Bureau and if any article answering the description of that lost by you is subsequently handed to the Works Police, you will be notified immediately.

It is always advisable, and particularly so when the lost property is of some value, whether it be sentimental or otherwise, to notify your local police. This can be done by writing to the Chief Constable

.....or by a personal call at your local Police Station.

(Signed).....

Once a fortnight, a printed list containing the full description of property reported lost, and a brief description of property found, is posted on all notice boards within the factory, which total 192.

The establishment of a Lost and Found Property Bureau run on the lines indicated has proved to be an unqualified success for not only does it tend to develop respect for the Police Department and its personnel but finders and losers of property realise that their claims receive the fullest attention.

PLANNING FUTURE PREVENTION

No. 5. District Reviews Scheme

A Report by J. C. Nightingale, B.E.M.,

Secretary, No. 5 District Chief Constables' Conference

At a recent meeting the Chief Constables of No. 5 District discussed the importance of Crime Prevention measures in the general scheme of police activities and decided to call a meeting of those officers in their respective Forces who were specifically charged with responsibility for Crime Prevention work, or who were actually engaged on particular activities in this field.

This meeting was held on 27th January, at the Headquarters of the Essex County Constabulary at Chelmsford and was attended by a total of 49 officers from the various Forces in No. 5 District and from the Metropolitan and City of London Forces.

Exchange of Opinions

The chair was taken by Detective Chief Superintendent E. J. Barkway, Essex, and the proceedings were opened by the Secretary of No. 5 District Chief Constables Conference, Mr. J. C. Nightingale, Assistant Chief Constable of Essex, who welcomed the members of the Conference, both on behalf of the Chief Constables of the district and of Sir Jonathan Peel, the Chief Constable of Essex.

He said that the object of the conference was to enable officers with special knowledge in the field of Crime Prevention to have the opportunity of exchanging ideas and opinions about their work, and to make suggestions which might lead to an all round improvement in the efficiency of the measures applied. He went on to say that while it was difficult accurately to assess the success achieved by this work, it was obvious that some benefit was derived from it. He reminded his audience that a policeman's primary duty was the prevention of crime and it was therefore essential that everything possible should be done. He felt that nothing but good could

come of the conference and hoped that everyone present would gain substantially from it.

Report on Prevention

The chairman then outlined the recent history and progress of police activity in the field of Crime Prevention. He referred to the Report of the Working Group on Crime Prevention Methods which had been formed in June, 1954. The terms of reference given to this group were:

"To enquire into the methods adopted by Police Forces in the field of Crime Prevention and to report on the need for the appointment and training of police officers in this aspect of police work."

The working group had obtained its data with the assistance of the Commandant and Staff of the Police College. Eight members of the college directing staff visited a number of Forces in different parts of the country which were known to adopt different individual approaches to the problem of Crime Prevention. On the invitation of the Chief Constables concerned they investigated and reported upon the steps taken in these Forces to prevent crime by way of educating the public to protect its own property and to make the members of the Force aware of their responsibilities in this respect.

After consideration of the data obtained by these officers, the working group studied the information available and in August, 1956, issued a comprehensive report which was subsequently published by H.M. Stationery Office. In general, all methods used in current Crime Prevention activities were considered in this report.

Pattern of Approach

The chairman then called upon a representative from each Force present to give a short outline of the



Det. Ch. Supt. E. J. Barkway

Crime Prevention methods adopted in his Force. From these accounts and from the discussion which followed it was apparent that there was a considerable variation in the approach to this matter adopted in the different Forces.

The methods in general followed a similar pattern and included the following:

- (1) Educating the beat officer in Crime Prevention methods and in the correct way of patrolling a beat on the lines suggested in the report of the working group.
- (2) Educating the public by the distribution of leaflets and by giving personal advice to careless householders, car and cycle owners, shopkeepers, and industrial undertakings.
- (3) Giving talks on the subject to Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and other public organisations.
- (4) Giving advice to occupiers of all types of premises on the security of their premises and the use of locks, fastenings, and burglar alarms.
- (5) Publishing illustrated articles in local newspapers and the display of posters on notice boards, etc.
- (6) Supplying literature to insurance companies for enclosing with renewal notices sent out to their clients.
- (7) Staging exhibitions at cinemas, fetes, garden parties, agricultural shows, or similar centres.
- (8) Giving personal advice to employers regarding the safe trans-

sit of large sums of money to and from banks.

- (9) Showing short films at, for instance, cinemas and village halls.
- (10) Organising "At Homes" at police stations to which business executives and other responsible persons are invited.
- (11) Liaison with multiple stores, etc.
- (12) Making appeals to careless shoppers in markets and crowded shopping centres from police cars equipped with public address equipment when it is thought that pickpockets might operate.

Talks and Films

Talks were given by Mr. D. J. Moloney, Sales Director of Burgot Rentals Ltd., on burglar alarm installations, and by Mr. D. N. Dring and Mr. R. J. Pilgrim of Messrs. Chubb & Sons Lock and Safe Co. Ltd., on the fields in which they were specialising. These three gentlemen indicated that their companies would be pleased to provide exhibits for police Crime Prevention exhibitions provided sufficient notice was given.

Detective Chief Inspector MacGregor of the City of London Police spoke of a Crime Prevention film in course of production by his Force entitled "Today will be different". This 16mm. film runs for 15 minutes and illustrates the carelessness of four people in four different cases of larceny. Copies of this film will be available later at a cost of between £7 and £10.

Two films entitled "In the Dock" and "Burglars Club" were shown for the benefit of officers present who had not already seen them. These films are available from the Central Office of Information. Buckinghamshire representatives showed a film produced by their Force entitled "Crime in Buckinghamshire" which dealt specifically with action which could be taken by members of the public to help the police in their fight against crime.

Other matters discussed were the possibility of obtaining time on television programmes for a series of talks on Crime Prevention; the regular supply of information on current crime to appropriate publications; circular letters to building and public works' contractors regarding the

security of valuable materials; and the use of films showing methods employed in wage snatches and other robberies.

Holding Public Interest

It was generally agreed that some difficulty was now being found in maintaining a new approach to Crime Prevention, and that public attention could best be held by the intelligent use of pictures and cartoons in pamphlets and posters rather than by the distribution of plain printed matter.

Members from the smaller Forces thought they would be much helped if there was a central source from which suitable propaganda and possibly material could be obtained, and there was a general expression of opinion that a professionally produced film was much to be desired.

At the end of the conference Mr. Nightingale said he felt it had been a success and stressed the point that with the crime statistics at their present level it was impossible to over-estimate the importance of the prevention and detection of crime. He emphasised that as well as bringing this matter constantly before the public, it was necessary to ensure that at all times all police officers, however employed, were aware of their responsibilities in this matter.

The chairman expressed his appreciation of the attention representatives had paid to the business of the meeting, and invited them to look round the exhibition which had been staged by the Essex County Constabulary Crime Prevention Branch, to which some most interesting exhibits had been supplied by such firms as Chubb & Sons Lock and Safe Co. Ltd., Burgot Rentals Ltd., Rely-a-Bell Burglar and Fire Alarm Co. Ltd., the Yale and Towne Manufacturing Co. Ltd., and the Multitone Electric Co. Ltd.

HARLOW EXHIBITION

Readers of the *Gazette* are invited to visit the Crime, Fire, and Accident Prevention Exhibition organised by Essex Police, Stonecross Hall, Harlow, 22nd—26th March. The hours are 10 a.m.—9 p.m., closing at 5.30 p.m. on the 26th.

Crime Prevention Items

M.P. CAR CAMPAIGN

A new drive against car thefts began last month in the Metropolitan Police area. Posters are being exhibited on the Underground and public buildings with the theme: dial 999 if you see suspicious activity near a car.

134% Rise

Last year, 9,171 vehicles were stolen, an increase of more than

38 per cent. on the previous year, and an increase of 134 per cent. over 1956.

Thefts from unattended vehicles in London streets in 1959 were 20,678, which was 28 per cent. more than in 1958 and 111 per cent. above the figures for 1956. The comparable figures for 1950 were 1,341 vehicles stolen and 5,249 thefts from unattended vehicles.

GOOD MANCHESTER FIGURES

Crimes recorded in Manchester in 1959 went down by 6.3 per cent and the detection rate increased from 28.8 to 33.9 per cent. This progress is reported by the Chief Constable, Mr. J. A. McKay.

Last year there were 22,543 crimes, a decrease of 1,541 on 1958. Crimes of violence last year totalled 444, compared with 326 in 1958, but the detection rate was about 85 per cent.

In his report, Mr. McKay said that few of the crimes of violence were due to what could be described as "gang activity." A re-organisation of the C.I.D., plus the introduction of mobile night crime patrols, has reduced the number of cases of breaking into houses and shops from 7,136 in 1958 to 5,937.

Public Aspects

There was a good deal of co-operation from the public last year, particularly on the 999 call system. But too many householders and shopkeepers failed to take strict

security precautions. One reason for the high rate of theft from cars, especially in the city centre, was that motorists left goods exposed inside the cars, instead of locking them in the boot.

Campaign Innovations

The Manchester Force instituted a crime prevention campaign in the autumn of 1959. Emphasis has been on the distribution of thousands of leaflets, and in poster publicity.

Two points are worth noticing:

Readers of books from the public central library find prevention book-marks inside their copies.

Owners of parked, loaded lorries are being chased by letter.

Officers report such lorries left on the streets and unattended car parks. The owner is then informed of the risk so taken. This has had a good response, many owners replying to express gratitude and promising better security arrangements in the future.

Crime Check in Monmouthshire

Though the total figures of offences reached 5,264, the highest ever recorded, Monmouthshire's Chief Constable, Mr. Neil Galbreath, is able to show encouraging progress. The first half of 1959 brought a rise of 12 per cent.; the second half, a decline "for some unaccountable reason"; and the final figure is only 2.8 per cent. higher. Breaking in offences also decreased from 857 to 818.

Mr. Galbreath criticises the amount of cash left lying around in premises and houses, and the vul-

nerability of tobacco stocks.

A useful analysis of crime and police activity shows that the Information Room received 13,892 messages and circulated 11,079 to the Force. Information from the room led to 111 arrests.

Gwynedd Decrease

Mr. W. J. Williams, Chief Constable of Gwynedd, reports a slight drop of 73 to 1,786 in the number of indictable offences for 1959. This is paralleled by a decrease of 23 to 206 in cases of juvenile offenders, but they still represent 34.9 per cent of the total.

"Men on Beat Essential"

The many additional duties placed on the police does not give adequate time for prevention and detection of crime, declares the Chief Constable of Halifax, Mr. G. F. Goodman, in his report. While emphasising the great value of the mechanised sections, he points out also that constables on the beat are all-important in keeping public confidence. Mr. Goodwin also regrets that the public, despite active prevention campaigns, does not always co-operate with the Force as commonsense might dictate.

There was an increase of 84 to 1,275 crimes in the borough, though the C.I.D. is congratulated on its success in detecting 64.9 per cent. of breakings. The 1,275 crimes has only been exceeded in 1948.

Ross & Cromarty Report

A big decrease of 585 is reported by Mr. Finlay Munro, Chief Constable of Ross & Cromarty, in the crimes report for 1959. They totalled 1,633 against 2,218.

BEHIND THE GLASS

Bullet-proof glass around the tellers' desks at the People's Bank of Lawrence County in Bessemer, Pennsylvania, served its purpose last month for the first time since it was installed 10 years ago.

Three bandits, armed with a shotgun and revolvers, attempted a cash raid. The teller continued to look at them as he phoned the police. And the men ran off when they realised the position.

COMMISSION TO CONSIDER PAY

At its second meeting held in London last month, the Royal Commission on the Police decided in the first instance to consider evidence relating to the fourth of its terms of reference. This covers "the broad principles which should govern the remuneration of the constable."

The commission proposes to complete the hearing of this evidence by the end of June and hopes to present an interim report on the subject before the end of the year. Evidence will be taken in Edinburgh on 31st May and 1st June.

CRIME REVIEW

Two main features predominate this month—the examples of further failures against bank strongrooms (though one thief found it easier to take away the cash after it had been loaded outside the bank), and the continued attention given to industrial firms. Here the chief event was the shipyard haul in London. Meanwhile, a big cigarette lorry theft spotlights the property protection problem.

£28,000 STRONGROOM RAID Taken Between Security Checks

An expert gang of thieves managed to gain entry to the premises of Harland & Wolff Ltd., Manor Way, East Ham, just after midnight on 18th February and, using oxy-acetylene gear, to burn their way into the strongroom. They escaped with some £28,000 in notes deposited for wages.

An unusual feature was the timing of the raid. A patrol of two men inspected the area at about 12.15 a.m. When they returned an hour later, the gang had achieved its

target. The *Gazette* understands that the strongroom was not protected by any form of alarm system.

The administrative block of offices is a little distance from the shipbuilding works. The gang entered through a window and then cut an aperture through the steel at the side of the first door leading to the strongroom. Then they attacked the second main door. They cut round it and left the equipment behind. It was reported to have been stolen from a contractor's premises just before the raid.

TWO BARCLAYS RAIDS FAIL

Attempts to force strongrooms at two London branches of Barclays Bank last month both ended in failure. In the first, at Lewisham on 4th February, the gang entered by cutting iron bars over a rear window, and tried to blow a hole (now a well-known technique) in the brickwork around the strongroom door. The gelignite failed to make much impression and the gang left.

The second effort was foiled by the character of the steel protecting the strongroom. This was at the Cannon Street, City of London, branch during the week-end of the 6th-7th. There the gang entered through a brick wall separating the basement from an adjoining restaurant. They succeeded in making a hole in the steel of one strongroom door, only to find it full of record books. But the cash-holding second strongroom was too much for their gear. The gang seem to have left in a hurry after the arrival of people to the restaurant.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL ATTEMPT

Later in the month, there was another "bank failure" when an oxy-acetylene gang tried to burn into the strongroom of a National Provincial branch at Tooting Broadway, London, on 11th February. It is possible that the thieves were disturbed, for the gear was left behind after the abortive attempt.

Bank "Ambush" Incident

Staff of a Westminster Bank branch in North Harrow were faced with a difficult and dangerous situation on 30th January when a gang of three masked men attempted a hold-up. The effort failed through the watchfulness of a girl clerk who, arriving for work, saw the incident through a window and ran off to dial 999. The men panicked and escaped.

They gained entry after the door had been opened by a junior clerk, and tied him up. Then they assaulted the chief clerk as he arrived and also tied him. Next a cleaner from upstairs was coshed as she entered. And finally the deputy manager was

threatened with a gun and bound as he entered too.

The men were after the keys to the safe. They did in fact obtain a set from the deputy manager's person but failed to make use of them. Both the chief clerk and cleaner however required hospital treatment after the vicious attacks on them.

Barclays Van and £2,000 Taken

An observant thief carried out a coup outside a Barclays Bank branch in Canning Town, London, on 16th February. Two members of the staff—the chief cashier and an assistant—had loaded bags of silver worth £2,000 into a van outside the bank and were taken by surprise when the man climbed behind the wheel and drove off with the cash.

Raids on Firms' Safes

More successful were plans directed at offices of commercial firms. Two involved attacking nightguards.

£6,500 TAKEN

The most serious was the Rockware glass factory, Greenford, Middlesex (just as our last issue went to press). Three men tied up the watchman when he discovered them, then cut open the safe with oxy-acetylene gear. Their haul was £6,500.

Also at the beginning of the month, a watchman at T. Wall & Sons (Handy Foods) factory, Isleworth, Middlesex, was overcome on his night round. The gang then broke open the rear of the office safe and escaped with about £1,000.

London Co-operative Hauls

Nearly £1,500 was taken from the dairy premises of the London Co-operative Society, Hayes, Middlesex, at the week-end of the 6th-7th. The safe was cut open. Entry in this case was made through a skylight.

In a further raid on the 22nd a gang blew the safe at the same Society's dairy depot at Leytonstone and stole £1,500.

Another incident affected C. T. Bowring & Co. Ltd., petroleum firm, at Manor Road, West Ham. There entry was made through a rear window on the 12th, the safe cut, and several hundreds of pounds taken.

BLOWERS DISTURBED

A gang had made their arrangements for blowing a safe at Frames Tours Ltd., in Southampton Way, London, on 14th February, but left without actually completing the job. A cleaner found the safe wired but undamaged. It contained cash and travellers' cheques.

Back Ripped Off

Thieves stole £600 in notes and bags of silver from the premises of Parsons Brothers and Snape, wholesale coal merchants, Lincoln, at the weekend of 27th-28th February. They entered through a window, tipped over the 2-cwt. safe, and ripped off the back. They left by the front door, locking it behind them.

Cash Snatches

RAM TACTICS AGAIN

Previous examples of ramming cash-carrying cars in the London area were again imitated at Highgate on the 22nd, when a van was used to stop a car taking a United Dairies depot manager and his assistant to the bank.

The thieves opened the boot of the car with a key and escaped with £2,600 carried there. The cash, it is understood, was not in a security car safe.

£4,000 HAUL

The industrial estate of Park Royal, London, was the scene of one heavy cash loss. On 12th February a cashier from British Indestructo Glass Ltd., was struck down by a gang of four men as he left his car to enter the factory, and his wages bag taken. It contained some £4,000. The thieves escaped in a car.

On way from bank

A lesser amount — £400 — was seized by a bandit from a young woman, escorted by a sales manager, as they returned with wages from the bank, at Hackney on the 5th. Again the attack took place near their factory, M.G. Furniture Productions Ltd. The thief snatched the bag from the woman's hands and escaped in a waiting car.

On way to bank

Nearly £300 was taken by a gang from a shop assistant at Hayes, Middlesex, as he was about to enter a bank. They too escaped, this time using the assistant's own van.

Two employees of an Express Dairy depot at Kentish Town were also victims on the 22nd. As they approached the bank, their bag was snatched containing nearly £900 and the thieves drove off in a waiting car.

OFFICE HOLD-UP

£1,500 Taken

Besides the safe raids mentioned above, the London Co-operative Society was the target also of an office ambush on 27th February.

Four men with stockings pulled over their faces and armed with pickaxe handles burst into a dairy depot office at Rushmore Road, Hackney, and said to the manager, a girl clerk and a roundsman: "Get down on the floor. Keep quiet and you won't get hurt." One then took the keys from the desk and opened the safe, which contained £1,500.

Property Hauls

£28,000 CIGARETTE LORRY COUP

Using unusual tactics to get hold of a load, possibly because the lorry was locked, a gang waited until the crew of a B.R.S. lorry, carrying £28,000 worth of cigarettes, prepared to move off from a café at Hackney on 28th February and then overcame them. The mate was attacked first and then the driver in his cab. The lorry was taken away and unloaded, then it was driven across London with its crew tied up, and abandoned in Southwark.

This haul follows other thefts of cigarette lorries in the London area — a £38,000 load being taken last October at Stratford, and a £28,000 load disappeared at Barnet in January.

170,000 Cigarettes

At Bridlington on 14th February a gang used the same method of entry into a wholesale tobacconists as was adopted eight months ago when 125,000 cigarettes were taken. They climbed to the roof and removed tiles, then descended inside, breaking open a door to escape. On this occasion the gang took 170,000 cigarettes.

TV and radio sets have also been

a target in London. Nearly £900 worth were stolen at South Ealing, and £1,000 worth from a shop at Walton-on-Thames.

Jewellery Losses

There was a large haul from a shop belonging to Feitelson Ltd. at Romford, about £5,000 worth of rings, watches, and necklaces being stolen. Here too the gang entered by the roof, cutting through iron bars over a window.

In Holborn on the 16th a gang reverted to smash and grab tactics. They used a car jack to break the window of a jeweller's shop and grabbed rings worth £750.

The Stand Too

At Kilburn on the 12th thieves were not daunted by finding cameras and equipment secured to a stand in a photographer's shop. Having cut a hole in the window with a diamond edge, they took property valued at about £1,000 including the show mountings.

And finally £2,300 worth of stewed steak in cans disappeared with a lorry at Leytonstone.

PETROL STATION RAID

Typical of the jeopardy in which many attendants at petrol stations feel they are placed was an attack at a garage on the Southend arterial road near Brentwood on the 9th. There a 60 year-old man was coshed by four teddy-boys as he served them with petrol for a stolen car. The boys were disappointed in being able to get only £4 from the till.

Tailpiece

A snatch thief grabbed a bag containing some £2,000 from an employee outside a bank in Whitechapel on 22nd February, evaded some passers-by—and ran into the arms of a constable off duty.

Aircraft Diamond Arrests

The Persian police arrested a postal clerk and two local Jewish diamond merchants in Teheran on 27th February, charging them with the theft of diamonds from flights between Brussels and Hong Kong. Two hauls worth £300,000 were recovered.

The men said details of the cargoes were sent from Brussels. They extracted the diamonds and resealed the packets for transmission to Hong Kong.

800 ATTEND F.P.A. CONFERENCE "More Co-operation Needed"—Mr. R. A. Butler

Held in London on 25th and 26th February, the National Conference on fire protection organised by the Fire Protection Association, turned out to be an impressive success. It was attended by 800 people from industry, local authorities, the fire services, insurance companies, and research bodies.

Home Secretary on Fire and Crime

Crime, fire, and the traffic problems were the three major enemies Britain had to fight today, said Mr. R. A. Butler, the Home Secretary, when he formally opened the conference on the 26th.

The police and the authorities were beginning to master the crime problem by a combination of severity and humanity. But he would like to attract more public attention to the danger of fire in comparison with the perpetual attention given to deaths on the highway.

Mr. Butler said they were making satisfactory progress in the field of crime, but there was something almost uncanny in the only two natural but inhuman characteristics of the fire enemy.

"In the field of crime I have been able in the last three years to start a variety of modern research which has yielded strong fruits. But I want also to recommend methods of research and cure to you in fighting your uncanny and very often unknown enemy."

Many people, said Mr. Butler, still did not know what simple fire precautionary measures to take for the safety of their children, their homes, and their businesses.

"It has never occurred to them to ask; and I do feel that it is tragic that ignorance of this kind should lead to these terrible accidents." Over 600 people lost their lives every year because of fire, he added.

They had two main weapons in the battle against fire—the powers given by legislation, and the more human, though often no less effective, power of persuasion.

"The last thing that I would like to be thought of the fire prevention officers of this country would be that they are

some kind of tyrant, whose only aim is to thwart and hinder the freedom of his fellow citizens and make them dip heavily into their pockets for the purpose of satisfying some kind of bureaucratic whim".

Fire prevention was not a simple science. It was not often just a matter of hanging the right kind of extinguisher on the wall.

Asking for a greater spirit of co-operation, Mr. Butler said there was a real danger that the many different professions and organisations concerned with fire prevention would work in their own field without being aware of the others' problems.

At the dinner on the 25th, Mr. A. F. O'Shea, chairman of the association, welcomed the Minister of Labour, Mr. Edward Heath, and distinguished representatives of fire interests, including Sir Laurence Helsby, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, and Sir Charles Cunningham, Permanent Under Secretary at the Home Office.

£44,000,000 1959 Damage

In his conference opening address, Mr. A. F. O'Shea said that last year's losses from fire were likely to reach the "appalling" figure of £44,000,000. He thought contributory causes were the hot, dry summer and the use of bituminous roofs and thermal linings in modern construction.

Mr. L. G. Wilson, Chairman of the Safety, Health, and Welfare Committee, British Employers' Confederation, emphasised in an address the need for friendly co-operation between the expert and the industrialist who is often faced by difficult problems of premises and equipment. He hoped there would be no by-passing of the Factory Inspector under the 1959 Act. Industry would not accept the placing of full responsibility for fire matters on local authorities.

Two of the main speeches given to the conference are reproduced below. Other papers on insurance and on the public fire services' contribution will appear in our April issue.

The Industrial Fire Prevention Officer

By E. E. CHANTER, L.I.FireE.
Fire Advisor to Shell Refining Company Ltd.
National Chairman, Industrial Fire Protection Association

AFTER centuries of industrial, social and educational development, fire still constitutes an undisputed drag on industry as the greatest destructive agent in the world. It has been gratifying to read in H.M. Chief Inspector's reports for 1956, 1957, and 1958 that statistics indicate the direct losses in the U.K. to have shown a reduction for these years, while the world-wide trend has been for fire loss figures to increase. Bearing in mind the high rate of production and the fact that over 300 million square feet of new industrial premises have been erected since the war, the Fire Service and industry are to be congratulated on these results. However, the past year, with the highest-ever financial fire losses, is a grim reminder for the need for all of us to intensify our basic fire prevention and precaution arrangements so as to arrest immediately this sudden trend. To each of us here today it is, in fact, a challenge that must be answered.

Science and Profession

The industrial life of Britain is changing rapidly, with mechanical processes which have been in operation for

many years giving way to nuclear methods which, in turn, bring new fire hazards to industry with new problems in prevention and protection. At the same time, however, the nuclear age brings another challenge to the Fire Service, and in this new sphere continual study must be maintained in order to develop techniques for handling the problem.

With the advent of the National Fire Service and the introduction of Fire Service Colleges, development of the art of extinction and improvements in fire service equipment have been considerable, and fire prevention and the Fire Prevention Officer have become a science and profession respectively in their own rights. In industry, fire prevention is becoming more and more complex and it is essential that everybody associated with industry should understand the meaning, the economics, and the common sense of fire prevention in terms so simple that they cannot be misunderstood. Industry must think of the immense losses in production suffered through fire damage in terms of how much was saved rather than how much was spent on fire prevention and protection.

Relations with Management

What is the position of the Fire Prevention Officer in industry and what part can he play? Management is the prospective buyer of Fire Prevention; it has a need and the Fire Prevention Officer must always be ready to show this need. He must give management facts to reveal that fires are inefficiencies and that fire prevention is an efficiency measure. He must be sincere and enthusiastic and secure management's interest in fire prevention work; he must do the job well so that he sells himself and his prevention work to management. He must display interest in his work, and his enthusiasm must be such that it is catching and will permeate throughout the industry. He must reveal an intense, profound and eager interest with a liveliness of imagination and an ardent zeal for fire prevention which he believes to be so worthy. He must be able to accept "No" for an answer and yet not be a "Yes" man—fighting for what he thinks is right, yet accepting the occasional defeat gracefully. In his demands for finance the Fire Prevention Officer has to compete against production and development: he must therefore reduce prevention costs to an absolute minimum by the better use of manpower and equipment while never forgetting the present trend to automation. Lastly, he must respect and be respected to get the maximum results from his efforts.

Ideally, decisions affecting the fire prevention and safety of any plant or industrial premises ought to be taken by a committee on which several specialists are able to discuss problems jointly and formulate codes of practice. Such a satisfactory state of affairs exists with larger industrial concerns. However, in the smaller and less specialised branches of industry the Fire Prevention Officer will most likely continue to attempt the difficult and well-nigh impossible task in the sphere of fire prevention of combining the work of architect, legal expert, technologist, chemist and engineer.

Common Plans

Let us examine how fire prevention can best be promoted in the various types of industries represented which are of such a vastly different size and nature. Irrespective of the type and size of the industry, a common plan can be followed throughout to ensure that we increase our fire prevention efforts in all phases of our production and at all levels.

1. We must make everyone, from the top downwards, "fire prevention minded" in every aspect of their industrial life.

2. We must organise and plan our fire prevention effort because this does not happen by itself.

3. We must investigate and study every fire incident, exchanging findings and experiences to the mutual benefit of all.

Studying this problem a little further in order to establish how fire prevention can be undertaken we find the need to distinguish between various types of fires, and here we encounter two distinctly different groups:

1. Fire incidents emanating from fractures of plant or equipment, burst flanges or joints, or from unrecognised dangers in process operations.
2. Fires caused by personnel, ranging from carelessness and negligence to poor workmanship, lack of training, or inadequate instructions or training.

Many of us have had the unfortunate experience caused by the failure of equipment (bursting of pressure vessels or pipes, collapse of structures) which have resulted in explosions and fires, none of which were the fault of the operatives involved. This category of fire, if we wish to reduce their occurrence and effect, requires the gathering of reliable information on what happened, careful analysis of basic causes and, where necessary, built-in automatic fire fighting equipment to cope with future incidents. It is in this type of fire prevention work that the Fire Protec-

tion Association is contributing so much, and their periodical selected list of notable fires based on information supplied by the Fire Services is invaluable.

The second group, in which by far the largest number of both minor and major fires have to be classified, are those caused by personnel. This category of fire can only be tackled by working on the "individual"; by issuing a strict code of fire regulations so that potential dangers are reduced, by providing good training, and lastly by ensuring adherence to all fire regulations.

It is the Fire Prevention Officer or his equivalent who must introduce, spread and maintain the basic concept of fire prevention, but this must have management's blessing and support. It is especially the latter, management's active support, which is of decisive importance for the success of fire prevention efforts.

Range of Responsibilities

The Fire Prevention Officer must take many steps in providing a sound policy and involve many persons who have a part in supporting the work. Certainly it is not a one man effort or a one department water-tight job. It must involve:

- a A conviction that the plant or works must be kept clean and tidy and that prompt corrective action must be taken whenever possible fire conditions are noted.
- b Investigation and discovery of the cause of all fires and ensuring that all fires, however small, are reported.
- c Provision of first-aid equipment, adequately maintained.
- d Up-to-date fire prevention regulations and imparting to each employee the understanding that violation of regulations will not be tolerated.
- e Regular inspections and instilling fire-mindedness into each employee through personal contact and occasional lectures.
- f Close contact with the local Fire Service.

No discussion of the part played by the Fire Prevention Officer in industry would be complete without a brief survey of the personnel we select for this type of work. Fire Prevention duties, as for any other job, qualify for a number of minimum requirements if we expect the job to be done successfully as the work is not easy. The Fire Prevention Officer must teach, inspect, propose changes, and guide investigations. The type of work, by its very nature, is apt to provoke resentment and this is valid for all phases of fire prevention work. It is, therefore, obvious that the man must have a personality which combines perseverance with the gift for compromise when this is not to the detriment of his fire prevention programme.

The Factories Act, 1959, presents a new era of fire prevention and protection, and all managements and Fire Prevention Officers have a common interest in the implementation of the new Act and its measures to promote fire prevention. It is indicative of the steady growth and importance which has been related to fire prevention work during the past 20 years and will undoubtedly give the public Fire Prevention Officers added responsibility and greater power. The new Act will necessitate additional specially trained Fire Prevention Officers and I sincerely trust that the aim will be to go ahead advising and helping in the widest possible fire prevention field on a "goodwill basis"; this is essential if progress is to be maintained. I am sure that the public Fire Prevention Officer will not wish to assume the role of law enforcement officer any more than he can help.

Planned Protection

Having agreed on the vital importance of keeping fire down to the absolute minimum, how then do we start implementing our plans because, apart from the cost and difficulties of replacing fire losses, there is the inevitable loss of production which cannot be replaced.

Fire prevention should start immediately a project has

been authorised, when a study of fire prevention and protection should be carried out, and all Acts and licensing must be complied with. In many of the larger industries, fire prevention regulations are evolved as a result of operating experience and are automatically incorporated in the engineering design of all new projects; but irrespective of whether they are standard regulations, or whether they are incorporated at the design stage, it is at this phase of the construction work that the company's Fire Prevention Officer should examine and discuss the operating hazards and peculiarities of the particular project. The basis of the work at this stage should be the elimination of unnecessary hazards, but if, as is sometimes the case, a risk is inherent with the process, it is essential that adequate first-aid or automatic fire fighting equipment is available to limit any spread of fire. The various steps taken on matters of fire prevention during the engineering design and construction stages provide the details from which the permanent fire prevention scheme can be worked out.

Basic Steps in Approach

Whether the industry has a fire risk big enough to justify a works fire brigade or not, the systematic steps in fire prevention and of planned protection remain the same. First, good housekeeping which consists mainly of scrupulous cleanliness and elimination of unnecessary hazards; secondly, a good patrol service; and lastly, staff trained in fire prevention and alert to fire hazards. Whether part or full time, the industrial brigade should carry out regular training and live tests so that in an emergency their behaviour is quietly confident and disciplined.

As with plant design, the Fire Prevention Officer cannot dictate the exact design of new buildings, but it is essential that he should be given an opportunity to study it at the drawing board stage to ensure that the hazards of fire are minimised by the use of fire resisting materials for floors, walls, columns and beams, with great emphasis on dividing the buildings into sections related to the fire hazards. If fire stop walls are incorporated in a design to minimise fire spread, such walls lose much of their value if they do not pass right through the roof, except in the case of a concrete roof. All necessary openings in such walls should be adequately protected by fire resisting doors or shutters which must be kept closed whenever possible, and certainly during breaks and at the end of each working day.

We have also to bear in mind that all new plants and factories are not installed in new buildings and frequently old structures are subjected to adaptation for extension schemes. Here again I would emphasise the necessity to permit the industrial Fire Prevention Officer to come in at an early stage and discuss with the construction or development team simple structural fire precautions that can be undertaken quite cheaply in the early stages to reduce the eventual fire hazard.

Fire prevention must start at the drawing board stage and the industrial Fire Prevention Officer must have the necessary knowledge to advise on the layout and design of plants and buildings, with a full knowledge of the risk to be protected. The positioning and size of fire mains, hydrants, water sprinklers and fire walls must be studied and commented on with authority gained by practical experience.

Undoubtedly one of the main bugbears of industrial fire prevention is smoking, and there is no doubt that the only approach to this problem is the education of the smoker to take more care. I doubt whether we will ever reach the stage when this fertile cause of fire is not high up on the list, but the provision of controlled adequate smoking facilities in safe areas of dangerous industries has been successful.

March, 1960

Dust and Electricity

Of the many other fire hazards to industry which must occupy considerable thought from the Fire Prevention Officer I would mention dust and electricity.

Great consideration by the Fire Prevention Officer must be given to avoiding inflammable concentrations of dust. Apart from the usual coal, starch and metallic dusts, it should be assumed that most plastics when handled in powder form are, in fact, a potential fire hazard. Obviously every effort should be made to avoid any concentrations of inflammable dust, but even greater is the necessity to avoid the means of ignition.

Finally, when the process involves a dust risk the greatest possible precautions should be taken to minimise damage and danger in the event of an explosion.

Electricity can also be a potential source of danger and every effort should be made by the Fire Prevention Officer to maintain installations in a first class condition. Regular inspections should be carried out and check tests made of the insulation of cables and the electrical continuity of all conduits. The possibility of "static electricity", which frequently occurs in the handling of certain materials, must also be closely watched. The handling of some materials leads to the generation of electricity, small in itself, but which becomes dangerous if these are means of accumulating the charges. This means can be the material itself if the electrical conductivity is sufficiently low, but there are many examples where insulation can be provided by air and by non-metallic materials such as rubber. The prevention measures for dealing with static electricity must cover the prevention of explosive mixtures of gas, adequate earthing and bonding, reduction of generation factors, and the addition of antistatic additives.

Equipment Siting and Choice

Fire extinguishing and detection equipment are fundamental if a fire is to be controlled in its incipient stages. A close study must be made of each individual fire risk and the appropriate type of extinguisher selected: these should be located at the principal entrances to that part of the works which is being protected, and must be clearly marked. Equipment located inside a building should be freely accessible, and it is vital that each group of first-aid equipment should be complete in every way; self-contained and regularly maintained. It should not be necessary to transfer from one part of the premises to another equipment which may be required in an emergency.

Other than premises where water may introduce a further hazard, and where economics do not justify a fire patrol, automatic fire protection systems should be considered. These fall into two main categories: those which also start to put out a fire, and those which merely give an alarm. Automatic sprinklers detect, give a warning of fire, and also control it pending the arrival of the fire brigade. Where an automatic sprinkler system is not practicable, an automatic fire alarm gives useful protection by drawing attention to the fire before it can get a hold. Lastly, if first-aid equipment is to be employed profitably, employees should be made fire conscious and fire drills and the use of extinguishers made a matter of routine. Any suggestion that this would affect production or interfere with work should be rejected emphatically on the basis that, in the long run, less time will be lost than would be so if the premises were destroyed by fire.

Finally, the object of all industrial fire prevention work must be to prevent fire incidents, and therefore fire prevention must be the foundation and the principal object of our plans. This planning should be based on sound construction, sound engineering, regular maintenance, strict fire regulations, and the training of employees in the intelligent use of first-aid equipment.



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Department Stores Fire Protection

By E. J. B. LLOYD, Director of Lewis's and Selfridges

Invaluable information on necessary precautions in stores contained in this address applies also to large industrial premises generally

THE Lewis's Investment Trust Group consists of large retail department stores in Liverpool (2), Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Hanley, Leicester, and Bristol. It also includes Selfridges in London and Reeces, a retail food, catering and milk distributing business on Merseyside. Of the department stores proper all, with the exception of Hanley, are modern sprinklered buildings either built or re-built since the First World War.

As a trade, and from the nature of their business, department stores are acutely conscious of the risk of fire and the following considerations are never far from the minds of their proprietors:

Fire Circulation

a It is fundamental to the technique of department stores that their premises should be situated in the centre of densely populated shopping areas. If such valuable sites are to be made fully productive it is essential that they should be filled with as large a concourse as possible of the shopping public over as much as possible of the shopping day or week. That public should be able to circulate freely over the whole building, and that calls for staircases, lifts, and escalators; while the floors themselves must be as open as local bye-laws will permit so that customers can view and purchase in comfort the merchandise on display. All these characteristics of typical department store buildings, while not in themselves causes of fire, are obviously potential hazards for the spread of any fire which has once broken out; and they all give to those who control department stores a lively awareness of their responsibilities, not only to their public but to the city in which they trade and to the owners of other property by which their building is invariably surrounded.

Concentrated Hazard

b The appeal of the department store to the shopping public lies in its aim to satisfy under one roof every reasonable demand for consumer goods. It therefore embraces in one building all the fire hazards from merchandise which would otherwise be sold in separate retail shops. Indeed the typical development of a department store is the expansion of his selling

space by a successful small retailer through the absorption of his next door neighbours; and many recent fires in department stores have occurred in just such premises before the owner has been able to demolish and erect a modern store building. Incidentally, it is one of the occupational hazards of the "take over" bidder in this field that, as in the case of our Hanley store, a group of modern department stores often adds to its number during the process of expansion a building which is neither sprinklered nor wholly built of incombustible materials.

Ancillary Dangers

c In addition, however, to comprising many different types of retail trade in the same building the department store contains many other ancillary activities which arise both from its size and the nature of its business. As a rule there are as many non-selling as selling staff on the premises and broadly the selling areas which the customer sees are matched by an equivalent amount of space behind the scenes which has to be devoted to these unseen but necessary activities. For example, restaurants involve kitchens with all their peculiar hazards; and the plants required to heat and provide hot water in a large store building as well as operate lifts and escalators bring with them their own special fire risks which do not arise in an aggregation of small shops. In addition, lighting has become increasingly an important adjunct to selling. The amount of electrical equipment which is now built into a modern departmental store must itself add to the fire hazard. Finally, there are the multifarious workshops, such as the clothing alteration workroom, joiners' workshop, display workroom, and many others which a department store normally operates on its own premises in order to back up the selling function.

All these workshops are liable to their own peculiar fire risks which are different in kind to those to which a small retail shop is exposed. In other words a department store not merely represents a vast increase in degree of the ordinary fire hazard, such as the inflammability of merchandise to which every retailer is subject, but also contains within itself a variety of different hazards which arise from the size of the premises

and the scale of its operations.

Enforcing Precautions

It is not surprising, therefore, that the department store as a unit of retail distribution is very much alive to the importance of fire precautions. Whether or not that is the case for the trade as a whole, it is certainly true of the group which I represent. This awareness of the fire danger largely stems from the fire which destroyed our Liverpool store as long ago as 1886. Even in the 1930s any newcomer to the organisation could not fail to sense that the echoes of that catastrophe were still reverberating.

Again, in the unlikely event of any retailer in the course of his progress from a small shop to a fully fledged department store overlooking the risk of fire to his premises, he will be made sharply conscious of his responsibilities in that direction when he contemplates rebuilding. As soon as he starts producing plans and getting them approved by the local authority everything will lead him in the direction of using incombustible materials for floors, ceilings, dividing walls, etc.; and his superstructure would almost certainly be of steel, reinforced concrete, and stone. He will also have his attention specially drawn to staircases and he will certainly be made to ensure that they are adequate in number both for public and staff, that they are properly sited and lead out on to the street, and that they are constructed of fireproof materials.

As a result of the spread of our group over the country we have in the course of time been made aware of the fire regulations which different local authorities enforce. In the past the standard has varied widely. The London building regulations are, of course, the most severe in their impact, but provincial authorities are becoming increasingly fire conscious in their regulations. When our Glasgow store was reconstructed we had to conform to all sorts of requirements which at that date were not obligatory elsewhere. For example, fire-proof shutters were provided for all lift openings, sprinkler drencher systems had to be fitted over escalator heads, and staircases of incombustible material leading externally from main floors had to be fitted with fireproof shutters at the entrances to the various floors. Certainly in the latest store

we have built in Bristol every possible step was taken to ensure that the character of the building itself and the materials from which it was constructed would not contribute to the spread of any fire that might break out.

Analysis of Fires

To what specific fire hazards are department stores prone? To help me answer this question I had an analysis made of the number of fire claims dealt with since 1947 in our own organisation and of the cause of each fire in so far as it was known. Over this period of 12 to 13 years there have been 75 outbreaks large enough to support a claim, but as these have been spread over 120 different buildings (apart from residential house property) the number of fires per building per year may be regarded as relatively small. There have been only two claims of any magnitude. The largest concerned just such a building as I have referred to above, namely unsprinklered premises acquired in the course of business expansion, and the building involved was not a departmental store. Of the 75 claims, 54 related to the 10 department store buildings proper and of these only one was of any substance, and in this case the damage was less to the building than to stock and fixtures through smoke. Moreover, only 17 of these 54 fires occurred in what may be described as the public parts of the store. The other 37 broke out in stockrooms, receiving rooms, or in other similar back stage areas.

The analysis of the causes also presents an interesting picture. The largest item numbered 16 and is, as one would expect, described as Cause Unknown. This item almost certainly contains some genuine cases of spontaneous combustion but there are also others for which neither the assessors nor any other expert could attribute any reasonable explanation. The next two items, bracketed equal, cover the two hazards which cause me personally most concern, namely 15 due to smoking and 15 to electrical faults. Next come eight outbreaks caused by sparks and seven arising from fish fryers and cookers in restaurant kitchens. Only two arose from the cause which most people would probably place highest on the list of hazards to which department stores were liable, namely merchandise in contact with electric lights. The miscellaneous category of 12 contains a few cases of arson or similar malicious activity.

Electrical Faults

The cigarette hazard is, of course, always with us. In this field the risk from illicit smoking by staff always causes me more apprehension than

smoking by the public. It is true that customers are sometimes liable to throw lighted cigarettes out of the windows on a sunny day and set sunblinds alight but in my opinion a far greater danger arises from staff who smoke in stockrooms and other forbidden areas away from the main selling floors and then attempt unsuccessfully to stub a cigarette when unexpected feet are heard approaching. But again expressing my own personal view, I would place even this risk lower than that of the electrical fault which so often seems so completely unaccountable in its outbreak and apt to do so much more damage before it becomes visible. Moreover, the outbreak so often occurs at night when the premises are closed.

Automatic Sprinklers

It is in the light of this sort of claims experience that our policy of fire precautions has been built up over the years. Clearly where we are concerned with buildings which, owing to their special character, facilitate the spread of fire once it has broken out, it must obviously be the right policy to concentrate on stamping out an outbreak quickly before it has time to take hold. It is on this basic premise that our whole philosophy of fire precautions has been worked out and it rests on three main principles.

First, we attach the greatest possible importance to standard "A" automatic sprinkler installations. It is believed that we were among the first business organisations of any kind to instal sprinklers, and nothing that has occurred in the intervening years has shaken our confidence in them. From the point of view of speedy extinction of an outbreak at the earliest possible stage, sprinklers have proved their worth on innumerable occasions. We always regard our buildings as particularly vulnerable at night when as a result of an unstubbed cigarette or an electrical fault a fire which may have started to smoulder during the day bursts into flame when the premises are unoccupied at night. However rapidly a fire brigade may appear on the scene, in our view there is no satisfactory alternative in such circumstances to the protection which sprinklers can give.

I sense that there is at present some controversy about the relative advantages of sprinklers and automatic fire alarms. I have said enough to suggest that in any such argument we would almost certainly come down strongly in favour of sprinklers. The recent experience of the fire which destroyed Paulden's in Manchester seems to confirm that the automatic fire alarm does not alone give full protection in a building of that character. However, in all such controversies the

right answer is usually to be found in some compromise and we are now coming increasingly to the view that still further protection can be given by connecting to the sprinkler installation an electric alarm system that operates direct in the nearest fire station. This type of alarm would operate immediately a sprinkler head went into action, and although the fire brigade may sometimes make fruitless journeys when a sprinkler goes off by accident we regard the additional precaution as well worthwhile in the unlikely event of the sprinkler system proving ineffective.

Brigade Training

The second basic foundation of our fire protection system is an efficiently trained fire brigade consisting in the larger stores of up to 24 members of the male staff employed in the building. In all our cities we maintain the closest and most friendly relations with the fire brigade authorities for training and other purposes, and it is a strict rule of the business that a fire practice is held at least once a week and on each occasion in a different part of the store. A record of this practice is then kept in the Central Staff Administration so as to ensure that over a given period of time every section of each store has been covered. In all our stores there is a fire indicator system which indicates both visually and by an alarm the floor on which an outbreak has or is alleged to have occurred. For practice purposes the Staff Manager, who is the official responsible for all fire fighting activities in the store, himself breaks the glass to operate the alarm, but from time to time staff themselves are encouraged to break the glass so that in an emergency they would show no hesitation in operating the alarm. Members of the fire brigade are given additional pay for acting as such and the Staff Manager has a daily parade statement given to him so that during epidemics he can satisfy himself that the fire brigade is up to its proper strength. In other words, we attach the utmost possible importance to a fully trained and efficient fire brigade and if we knew of anything more that we could do to improve its efficiency we would do so. Another subsidiary activity of the same kind is that all responsible for management have standing instructions about the staircases down which the public is to be shepherded in an emergency; and emergency staircases for staff are everywhere clearly marked as such.

Hand Extinguishers

Thirdly, we set out to provide our fire brigade and staff with an adequate number of hand appliances correctly
Continued on page 84

Security Gazette



The damage to the Dunlop mill as it appeared on the following day from the railway embankment side.

Fire Report

£3,000,000 DAMAGE TO DUNLOP MILL

Burning Four Days: Doors Check Spread

The great fire which broke out at the Dunlop Cotton Mills in Rochdale, Lancs., on the morning of 2nd February, was the worst in the town's history. The mill involved, a giant seven-storey building, was claimed to be the largest of its type in the world and was concerned with the production, amongst other material, of foam rubber.

At first damage was estimated at £5,000,000, including business losses, but the figure has now been revised to about £3,000,000. Even so, this places the blaze in a similar category to the A. V. Roe and Rootes fires last year and again illustrates the potential danger of fire in large open buildings housing modern industrial processes.

The cause of the fire is not yet known. Possible sources of ignition are being investigated. A first report suggested friction in a horizontal cutting machine in the foam rubber sheeting section. The fire appears to have involved mattresses and to have spread to industrial solvents. An

employee stated that he saw a sheet of flame. He attacked it with an extinguisher but gave the alarm when he saw the seriousness of the position.

The fire call was received at Rochdale Fire Section at 11.00 hours. Deputy Chief Officer R. Kidd proceeded with the first appliances and on arrival immediately asked for further assistance, pumps being made 10 at 11.06. Then Chief Fire Officer E. W. Sales, arriving to take charge, sent out a call for reinforcing appliances from Manchester, Bury, Oldham, Burnley, Lancashire County, Cheshire County, and the West Riding Fire Services. Pumps were brought up to 20 with a further 10 standing by at Rochdale H.Q. A control centre was established in the garage office.

The fire originated in the third storey of the seven-storey block which was built in the form of a square about 200 yards long. An intense hold was gained in the combustible material and, helped by

the wind, the flames gradually spread to the floors above, despite the efforts of 150 firemen. A change of wind would, in fact, have made the situation even more serious.

One point to emerge, however, was the confinement of the fire at various points by fire resisting doors and walls where these had been installed.

It was not until 19.00 hours that Chief Officer Sales sent back the "stop". Isolated fires were, of course, still burning, and in fact piles of debris required fire fighting attention throughout the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th. Eight pumps remained through the night of 2nd-3rd. One special danger was the possibility of poisonous fumes from vats of chemicals being affected by water.

Tweedales and Smalley's works' fire brigade (Chief Officer N. Hooper) were early reinforcements and were later commended for their fine action by the Rochdale brigade.

One employee unfortunately lost his life at the beginning of the fire. He was fighting the fire in a flat with a hose when the ceiling collapsed, burying his body.

Comments on the Dunlop fire made by Mr. W. A. Jackson, Home Fire Manager of the Royal Exchange Assurance, in his address to the February National Fire Protection Conference:

"Fire resisting construction enables the structure to withstand the ravages of fire without adding fuel to the outbreak, but it does not overcome the problem when buildings are filled with inflammable material: as in the recent case of Dunlop's mill."

"The provision of sprinklers does not justify acres and acres of unbroken areas under one roof. The fact that sprinklers have to be out of action at times has just been illustrated by the disastrous loss in Dunlop's mill, where the installation was turned off only about an hour before the fire to permit repairs or alterations to the system."

The *Gazette* understands that engineers from the sprinkler firm concerned, Mather & Platt Ltd., were not carrying out any work on the system in the area where the fire broke out.

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER GAVE ALARM Coroner's Appeal at Inquest

There was the tragic consequence of a man's death to a fire in a converted card shop recently fought by Birmingham Fire Brigade. The incident was notable also in that the fire was first spotted by Station Officer Howell, a member of the Brigade's Fire Prevention Staff, who happened to pass the shop in Stratford Road just before 08.30 hrs. on the day of the incident.

He noticed smoke coming from the three-storey building and, seeing no appliances present, made a "999" call to Fire Control at Headquarters. This was the Brigade's first notification.

The damage to the shop was most severe and the cause of the fire is not known. It appeared to have started at ceiling level at the front of the shop on the ground floor.

At the inquest, a verdict of "Death from Misadventure" being returned, the Birmingham Coroner said: "If anyone sees smoke or suspects a fire they should not wait for someone else to call the Fire Brigade. Every second counts. We would rather have fifty calls to the same fire than no call at all".

"Departmental Stores"—from p. 82

distributed throughout the building. Our experience has been that such extinguishing equipment, if effectively handled, can often deal with an outbreak even before the sprinklers have time to come into operation. Indeed, many of the smaller claims which account for the larger number of the 75 to which I have referred were in fact small because the outbreak was caught in time. Such fire fighting equipment includes the water-based type of 2-gallon extinguishers which we have found best for general use on selling floors, with gas-based extinguishers for electrical fires in switch rooms and at other important electrical points. In kitchens we provide fire foam to deal with fat fires and asbestos blankets to prevent blazing fat from splashing elsewhere. Then, in addition to the 2½ in. hydrants, we are tending more and more to replace sand and water buckets with 1 in. hose reels in sufficient numbers to command the whole premises. I need hardly add that this fire fighting equipment is subject to periodical regular inspection so as to ensure that it is all in good working order and, in particular, that it is maintained in accessible positions and free from merchandise obstructions.

Special Security Duties

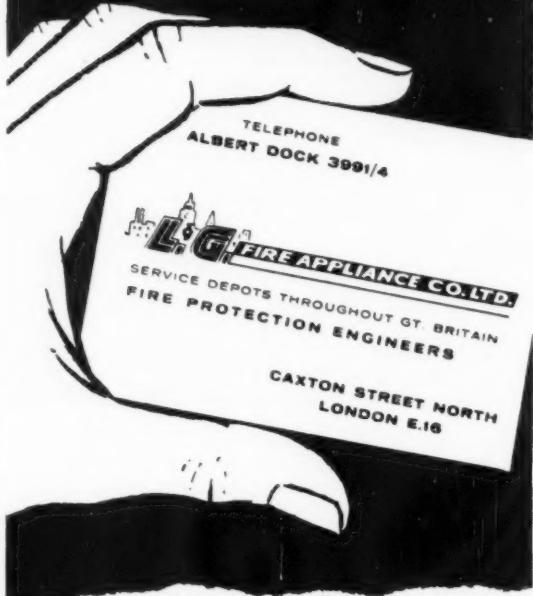
Finally, mention might be made of three among other steps we take to minimise the risk of outbreaks: a Bearing in mind that spontaneous combustion accounts for so many fires for which no known cause can be attributed, special attention is paid both to actual accumulations of rubbish and to places where such rubbish is likely to collect. All waste paper and wrappings are collected at regular intervals and are not allowed to remain on the premises longer than strictly necessary.

b Stocks of dangerous goods, such as oil, matches, fireworks are kept in fireproof compartments and are subject to the statutory regulations which govern the sale and storage of such materials.

c On the principle that it is the outbreak at night when the premises are unoccupied which calls for specially stringent precautions, a specially trained squad of security staff patrol the building before locking up. They ensure that fire door shutters are closed, all unnecessary electric points turned off, and any accumulations of rubbish disposed of which appear unusually hazardous.

I hope I have now said enough to satisfy you that although we cannot guarantee to prevent an outbreak of fire on our premises we are very much alive to the fire risk.

Always on call!..



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- **LIVERPOOL**
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Liverpool 3.
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12 YEARS FOR JEWELLERY RECEIVERS

Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Case

For two men the great jewellery raid carried out last autumn on four premises in London of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Association led at the Old Bailey on 10th February to sentences of 12 years' imprisonment each. (Report of raid: *Gazette*, Nov., 1959.)

They were James Whelan, aged 32, a furniture dealer, of Chippenham Gardens, Notting Hall (who had 26 previous convictions) and Timothy McGuire, aged 34, a florist, of Empire Court, North End Road, Wembley, who had eight previous convictions.

They admitted receiving jewellery worth £33,242 knowing it to have been stolen.

Pleas Accepted

Pleas of not guilty by Whelan and McGuire to four other charges of breaking and entering shops in London and stealing were accepted by the Court. The amounts involved in these charges were: in Burlington Arcade, jewellery and other goods worth £49,482; in Piccadilly, jewel-

lery and other goods worth £40,449; in Regent Street, jewellery and other goods worth £52,349, and in Victoria Street, jewellery worth £12,821.

The men were arrested early in December at Wembley after they had been seen to have locked a suitcase and a bag in Whelan's car containing jewellery. Apart from this and other property found in the flat none of the remaining, said the prosecuting counsel, had been recovered. The total originally stolen was £155,101.

Detective Inspector Bernard Holliday of the Flying Squad said that in his opinion six other men were involved. He believed some of the remaining jewellery had been broken down and some is still intact in this country.

It was stated that keys for the raids were obtained from the Burlington Arcade shop. When Whelan was arrested he said to Detective Inspector Bill Balcock: "What a marvellous organisation you must have at the Yard. How did you get on to us? It is fantastic."

WAS POLICEMAN AND SECURITY OFFICER

During a recent case at Luton when a man was fined £20 for stealing £24 while employed as a wages clerk, it was said that, though possessing a criminal record, he had managed to join Berkshire County Police and remained with them from 1947 to 1951. Inspector S. Cooper said: "You may wonder how he got into Berkshire Police. I cannot help you."

Inspector Cooper said the man, Robert Cyril Burgess, aged 40, of no settled address, was sent to an approved school in 1935 for house-breaking and larceny. In 1939 he served three months' hard labour for larceny. He resigned from the Berkshire police for domestic reasons, and afterwards was employed on security work at Vauxhall Motors, Luton.

He was employed by J. Jarvis & Sons Ltd., of London.

The chairman said he was taking into consideration the 21 years when Burgess had gone straight.

In the Courts

Postman's Theft

A 39-year-old postman, James Hinsley, of Wat's Dyke Way, Wrexham, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment at Ruthin recently for stealing a registered packet containing £5,000. He pleaded guilty. Mr. Robin David (prosecuting) said that £4,932 was recovered.

Prolonged Shop-Lifting

An unusual case of stealing from shops came before Sheffield Magistrates. It was said that a man who wished to give his wife and children every single thing they wanted began shop-lifting "on a fantastic scale" on Saturday afternoons until he had taken goods worth £265 15s.

The size of the goods was also remarkable. Among them were two television sets, a tape recorder, two transistor radios, two electric blankets, two electric railway sets, two model electric roadways, a tool kit, a four-foot long sledge, and an electric toaster.

The man, Albert Hudson, aged 37, of Hartley Brook Road, Sheffield, was fined £60 after pleading guilty to three offences. All the goods were recovered.

SCRAP COPPER THEFTS

Pleading guilty to stealing scrap copper worth £1,000 from Andrews Metals, Ltd., of Shirley, Birmingham, three men, all scrap dealers, were sent to prison for 10 months at Solihull.

The arrests followed observation by two police officers after there had been three previous thefts from the firm. They saw two of the men preparing to move the metal just after midnight.

QUOTH THE RAVEN!

"Never no more," said George Henry Gostelow, 24-year-old fitter, of Southam Street, Kensington, in a statement to the police about a safe he was trying to blow up after breaking into the cashier's office at the General Post Office Research Station at Dollis Hill. "It was my first one," Gostelow explained. "I was blown right across the office."

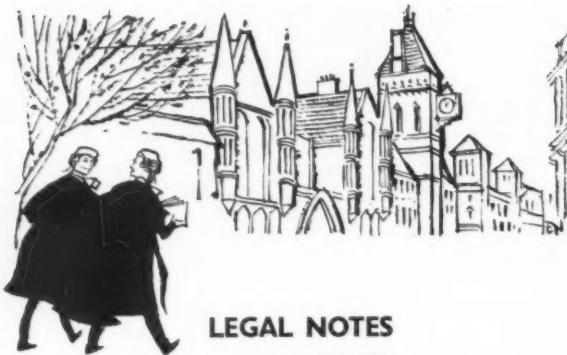
Pleading guilty at Middlesex Sessions, he was sent to prison for 12 months.

Against Carrying Remittances

Staff representatives have asked the Post Office to stop using postmen on foot to carry money between offices. They have suggested that all official remittances should be conveyed in mail vans wherever possible. Post Office officials have been told that postmen in different parts of the country have expressed concern about security and possible attacks while carrying official remittances.

It has been pointed out that the practice of sending the remittances has become more frequent as the result of smaller post offices being restricted in the amount of money which may be kept overnight.

The postmen complain that in winter they have to carry the remittances in the early morning while the streets are dark still, and that, sometimes, when an office is not open they have to keep possession of the remittance while they continue a normal letter-delivery round.



LEGAL NOTES

Definition and Proof of Arson

By GERALD R. PALING, C.B., C.B.E.

The Gazette has carried reports from time to time where arson is suspected. This is a subject of great importance to industrial security, and officers need to know the precise meanings involved. They are now explained by our legal correspondent.

IT is an offence both at common law and by statute to commit arson. The common law offence is the malicious and voluntary burning of the house of another by day or by night. The word "house" includes not only a dwelling house, but all outhouses which are parcel thereof, though not contiguous nor under the same roof, such as a barn, stable, cowhouse, sheephause, dairyhouse, or millhouse.

The statute dealing with arson is the Malicious Damage Act, 1861, which sets out in different sections offences of setting fire to different types of building, all of which are felonies. These sections require a detailed consideration.

Life Imprisonment

Section 1 makes it an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any church, chapel, meetinghouse, or other place of divine worship. In section 4 it is an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any station, engine house, warehouse or other building belonging to or appertaining to any railway, port, dock or harbour, or to any canal or other navigation. According to section 5 it is an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any building, other than such as are in this Act before mentioned, belonging to the Queen, or to any county, riding, division, city, borough, parish or place, or belonging to any university or college or hall of any university or to any Inn of Court, or devoted or dedicated to public use or ornament, or erected or maintained by public subscription or contribution. All these offences are punishable by life imprisonment.

When Applicable to House

It is to be observed that the mere unlawful and malicious firing of these buildings carries the maximum

imprisonment. However, when we look at section 2, we find that it is an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any dwelling-house, *any person being therein*; and section 3 makes it an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any house, stable, coach-house, out-house, warehouse, office, shop, mill, malthouse, hop-oast, barn, storehouse, granary, hovel, shed or fold, or to any farm building, or to any building or erection used in farming land, or in carrying on any trade or manufacture, or any branch thereof, whether the same shall then be in the possession of the offender or in the possession of any other person, with intent thereby to injure or defraud any person.

These two sections also carry life imprisonment. It will be seen that nearly 100 years ago the legislature considered it a more serious offence to set fire to a place of divine worship, a railway engine house, or a public building than to a dwelling house unless there happens to be a person in the house. It may be interesting for the historian to discover why, when the Act was passed, it was considered more serious to set fire to a railway or port warehouse than to any other warehouse.

However, firers of other buildings do not escape for by section 6 it is an offence unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any building other than such as are in this Act before mentioned, but the penalty is limited to 14 years' imprisonment. Section 7 makes it an offence, punishable with a maximum of 14 years' imprisonment, unlawfully and maliciously to set fire to any matter or thing being in, against, or under any building, under such circumstances that if the building were thereby set fire to, the offence would amount to felony.

Question of Malice

In section 58 it is laid down that where any punishment is imposed on any person maliciously committing any offence it shall equally apply whether the offence shall be committed from malice conceived against the owner of the property in respect of which it shall be committed or otherwise. The word "maliciously" implies the doing of that which a person has no legal right to do, and the doing of it in order to secure some object by means which are improper. (R. v. Syme, 1911.) Malice in its legal import does not mean spite or ill-will but the wilful doing of an illegal act.

Section 57 gives power to any constable or peace officer to take into custody without warrant any person whom he shall find lying or loitering in any highway, yard or other place, during the night, and whom he shall have good cause to suspect of having committed or being about to commit any offence above mentioned.

So far I have dealt mainly with offences as laid down by statute and with the meaning of the word malice. The burning must be done wilfully and maliciously in order to constitute an offence and therefore if any person sets fire to a building by negligence or mischance it does not make it arson, unless the offender does the act recklessly, without caring whether the house is set on fire or not. If a man sets fire to his own house without any person being therein, or with any intent to injure or defraud, burns also the house of one of his neighbours, he commits an offence for the law, in such a case, implies malice, particularly if the party's house were so situated that the probable consequences of its taking fire was that the fire would set light to the house in its neighbourhood. Generally, if the act is proved to

have been done wilfully, it may be inferred to have been done maliciously, unless the contrary be proved."

Actual Burning Required

It is to be observed that all these sections use the words "set fire to", and though the building need not be burnt down there must be an actual burning of part of the building. An attempt to do so will not bring the culprit within the terms of the sections, though, of course, an attempt to commit an offence is of itself, by section 8 of the Act, an offence. However, the burning of any part of the building, no matter how trifling, is sufficient although the fire is afterwards extinguished.

It is not often that the wilful burning can be established by direct proof and the Court has to presume the guilt of the offender by circumstantial evidence. Where the question is whether the burning was accidental or wilful, evidence is admissible to show that on another occasion the accused was in such a situation as to render it probable that he was then engaged in the commission of a like offence against the same property. Equally well on a charge under section 3 evidence may be admitted to show that the accused had previously set fire to two houses which had been insured, fires had broken out in both, and the accused had made claims upon and been paid by the insurance companies in respect of the loss caused by each fire. Evidence

of experiments made after a fire is admissible to show how the building was set on fire.

Proving Intent to Injure

Where it is necessary to prove an intent to injure or defraud it is not necessary to prove that the prisoner intended to injure or defraud any particular person. Where the offence consists of setting fire to the house of another, the intent to injure that person is inferred from the act, for every person is deemed to intend the natural and probable consequences of his act. On the other hand, where the accused is charged with setting fire to his own property, the intent to defraud cannot be inferred from the act itself, but must be proved by other evidence.

The Act also makes it an offence to set fire to a coal mine, one of Her Majesty's ships of war, an arsenal, dockyard or ammunition, or any other ship or vessel. It is also an offence to set fire to stacks of or to growing crops, woods, or gorse.

Finally, I think that I should point out that if any property or thing not mentioned in the foregoing sections is wilfully and maliciously set fire to, the offender has certainly committed the offence of wilful damage. This means he can be charged with that offence under the appropriate section of the remaining part of the Malicious Damage Act.

ANSWERS TO LEGAL QUESTIONS

Speed Limit Exemption

A Chief Security Officer writes:

Circumstances can arise when a security officer needs to speed his car or other vehicle when engaged on duty—perhaps, for instance, in replying to an emergency call. But he may also be doubtful how he stands in the eyes of the law. I should be glad to have the views of your legal correspondent on this point. My question, therefore is:

Is a security patrol vehicle, operated by an Industrial Police Force or Security organization, with duty signs clearly showing, exempt from speed limits as laid down under the Road Traffic Act, 1934?

Our Legal Correspondent:

The relevant section is Section 3 of the 1934 Act which says: "The provisions of any enactment, or of any statutory rule or order, imposing a speed limit on motor vehicles shall not apply to any vehicle on any occasion when it is being used for fire brigade, ambulance, or police purposes, if the observance of those provisions would be likely to hinder the use of the vehicle for the purpose for which it is being used on that occasion."

There is no statutory definition of "police purposes" and I can find no case in which any attempt has been made to define these words. In the Scottish case of *Strathern v. Gladstone* 1937, it was held that pursuing the car in front in order to ascertain its speed if done by a private person is not, in any sense, acting in pursuance of any police purpose.

It seems clear that a private car driven by a private person cannot automatically claim exemption. On the

other hand, if a car is driven by a member of an Industrial Police Force or security organization, it may well depend on whether the driver was a special constable or merely a member of that body who had not been sworn in.

If there was a burglary at Factory A which set off an alarm at factory B and a car was being driven by a special constable from B to A for the purpose of catching the thieves I think it could well be argued that it was being driven for a police purpose. Though it may well be difficult to argue that it was a police purpose when the car was merely taking the managing director to the railway station in haste to catch a train.

Generally speaking it depends on the circumstances in each particular case. A body of men calling themselves "police" do not necessarily act on police purposes, but if a duly appointed constable acts in circumstances which the ordinary man would call police purposes then he would come within the section.

I think I should point out that the exemption given under Section 3 does not exempt the driver from the penalties for careless or dangerous driving.

"More Active Defence"

The statement that the police would have the backing of magistrates at Baldock, Herts., if they used a reasonable amount of force when attacked, was made by Mr. John Pryor, chairman of the bench, last month. "While we admire the restraint with which the police act," he said, "we feel order would be better maintained if they did not allow themselves to be knocked about, but showed a little more active defence."

An Irish painter was found guilty of assaulting P.c. George Goodman in the execution of his duty.

Wages by Cheque as Security Aid

New Bill Scrutinised by M.Ps.

PAYMENT of wages and salaries by cheque has been urged in recent years as a counter to snatch-raids because it was held that it would reduce the amount of money in course of transit through the streets. Some doubt has been cast on this theory and it was, perhaps, significant that Mr. Edward Heath, the Minister of Labour, in bringing forward the Government's Bill to permit the payment of wages by cheque to manual workers, hitherto excluded from participation by the Truck Acts, made no use of the argument. His case for the Bill was based upon the complete changes that had taken place in industrial conditions since the days when protection for the worker was desirable because of the pressure applied to make him accept part payment in kind or to purchase goods of his employer. But, as the Minister pointed out, even the Truck Acts did not originally forbid payment by cheque, so long as it was bearer and drawn on a bank not more than 15 miles from the place of payment and licensed to issue notes. The Acts had their present effect of barring cheques merely through the disappearance of such banks.

In any case, the Minister made clear that the Bill contained nothing that compelled anyone to take advantage of its provisions. It merely opened a door which it had never been originally intended should be closed. The worker would continue to receive his wages in cash, unless he made a request for all, or part of them, to be paid in another form. The employer would have to render a statement and no deductions would be admissible for poundage or stamp duty. The arrangement could be cancelled at 14 days' notice.

Labour Lukewarm

The Bill had but a lukewarm reception from the Opposition, though its second reading was not opposed in the lobbies. Mr. Alfred Robens, Labour's spokesman, could not understand why the Bill had been introduced in a busy session. It might well have been left until the report of the Karmel Committee into the operation of the Truck Acts had been received, when the whole subject could have been dealt with as an entity. As it was, the Bill would not help the employer or the banker. It was put forward as a help to the worker. But none of the workers' organisations wanted it.

The real reason for the Bill, Mr. Robens alleged, were the "enormous economies" they had been told it would bring to employers. The security question, he admitted, had also been raised. But while he claimed that the workers' organisations did not want the Bill, Mr. Robens declared that his Party did favour investigation of the Truck Acts and acknowledged the right of the worker to have his wages by cheque if he so desired. But Mr. Robens wanted to be sure there was absolute freedom of choice and no pressure.

There were other points in the working of the scheme that would have to be studied, said Mr. Robens. What would be the position of the workers if a small firm's cheques could not be met. Were arrangements to be made for banks to remain open in the evenings, especially in remote places. What arrangements would be made for post offices to cash cheques?

Big Firms and Security

Commander J. S. Kerans, who sits for the Hartlepools, brought up and strongly maintained the security argument. If the practice of payment through a banking account were adopted by all the major firms, he said, it would give a great measure of security. As he saw it, one of the reasons



IN PARLIAMENT

for the Bill was to reduce the amount of money in circulation drawn by cashiers at various times in the week, thereby reducing the number of hold-ups that occurred throughout the country at fairly frequent intervals.

In his constituency the Commander had seen young girls of 15 or 16 years of age drawing money from the bank, with no escort and with no proper bags. It was not right that employers should put such people in that position. They might not have far to go, but it was easy to snatch a bag and run. He had also seen a man stuff over £500 into a small suitcase, with no escort and with many other people watching. Far too many firms were inclined to give the coinage breakdown in advance on the telephone and their rendezvous for collecting money was at the same time every day of the week.

Sometimes those who drew the money took the same route. In some cases there was an escort; in others there was not. Every firm could, and should, make adequate security arrangements when drawing wages. Cashiers, who were not highly paid, and sometimes were extremely young, should not be handed vast sums of money without adequate security.

"Recently," added Commander Kerans, "I noticed that a distinguished ex-police officer is to start a firm in this country, similar to one in the United States, I understand, which, for a small consideration, will supply an armoured type car or vehicle for use when drawing large sums of money. That is a most commendable project which could well be adopted by our larger firms without very heavy overall cost."

Traffic Wardens Approved

The Home Secretary announced in the House of Commons on 28th January that he hoped to put proposals for the use of traffic wardens before the House during the present session of Parliament.

Mr. Nigel Fisher, who had put a question to Mr. Butler on the need to relieve the Metropolitan Police of work in connection with parking and other minor traffic offences, said that the Minister's decision would be well received by the public. He hoped also that the police, who were under strength and over-worked, would welcome being relieved of a difficult and unrewarding duty.

Asked whether the traffic wardens would be in uniform, whether they would include women and what would be their strength, Mr. Butler said these details would be published in due course, when they were quite clear about the plan to be put before Parliament.

Fines Tariff

In response to further questions on the order paper from Mr. Fisher and Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Butler on the same

occasion, said that he also hoped to put before the House this session proposals for the introduction in specified areas of a standard penalty system whereby persons who committed certain traffic offences would be informed by means of a ticket attached to the vehicle that they might, if they wished, pay a standard penalty to a court as an alternative to being prosecuted.

Mr. Fisher said that this would be a welcome innovation to most motorists. It had worked well in other countries and would save a good deal of the time of the courts, the police and the motorist who knew that he was guilty, without being prejudicial to the legal rights of the motorist who thought that he was innocent.

Mr. Butler said the last point was important. If a driver wished to deny that he had committed an offence it would be open to him to withhold payment of the standard penalty, when he would be proceeded against in the normal way. He added that it would be suggested that this penalty system should be operated experimentally in London in the first instance.

Mr. Fletcher asked if it was the intention that the standard fine should be the same for every offence, irrespective of whether there had been a previous offence.

Mr. Butler replied that he could not give a final answer on that point at present, but he could say that the offences to which this procedure would apply would consist principally of parking offences and matters of that sort. They could not apply such a system to moving vehicles.

"Does not this system cut across the right of the subject to be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty?", asked Mr. Bellenger.

"No," replied Mr. Butler. "The answer is that the driver who feels that he is penalised has the right to go to court if he so wishes. That preserves the liberty of the subject."

Mr. S. Silverman asked the Home Secretary whether his proposals contained any safeguard to make sure that a man who denied his guilt and exercised his right to go to court should not pay a greater penalty than the standard penalty merely because he had elected to defend himself and required the case against him to be proved?

"That is a very important refinement, to which I must pay attention," said Mr. Butler.

Robbery With Violence

Mr. N. Pannell asked the Home Secretary the number of offences known to the police of robbery with violence in 1959 compared with 1948 and 1938.

Mr. Butler replied that, as he had stated before, he proposed in future to quote total figures for offences of robbery under Section 23 of the Larceny Act, 1916, and not to distinguish those for robbery with violence. The numbers of offences of robbery known to the police in the years 1938, 1948 and 1959 were respectively 287, 1,101 and 1,900. The last figure was provisional.

Mr. Pannell asked the number of persons found guilty of violence against the person in 1938, 1948, and 1959, respectively, giving for each year the number in total, the number of males in the age group under 17 years, and the number of males in the age group 17 to 21 years.

Mr. R. A. Butler regretted that the figures were not yet available for 1959. The figures for 1938, 1948 and 1958 were:

NUMBER OF PERSONS FOUND GUILTY OF OFFENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	1938	1948	1958
All ages (males and females...)	1,583	3,183	7,895
Males aged under 17	147	225	1,012
Males aged 17 and under 21	110	380	2,051

Violent Youth

In response to a request from Mr. Currie, the Home Secretary has circulated to the House returns showing the

numbers of crimes of violence committed in England and Wales by young persons between the ages of 16 and 21 in the years 1938, 1954 and 1958. The number of convictions was as follows:

	1954		1958	
	Aged 16	Aged 17 and under 21	Aged 16	Aged 17 and under 21
Rape	4	15	2	27
Robbery	29	132	37	303
Assault: bodily harm	67	379	201	1,137

Comparable figures for 1938 were not fully available but in that year in the 17-20 age group there were 36 robberies and five rapes.

Young Offenders' Bill Delayed

To permit of the promised Bill on the treatment of young offenders being as comprehensive as possible, the Home Secretary is delaying its production until he has had an opportunity of considering the conclusions of bodies to whose consideration specific aspects of the problem have been referred. One of the relevant reports is that of Mr. Durand, who enquired into the disorders at Carlton Approved School. Some of these proposals would involve legislation and have to be considered in relation both to the new Bill and to the wider questions affecting approved schools.

A cognate matter is the call to revive corporal punishment. This has been referred to the Advisory Council on the Treatment of Offenders. Two questions relating to it were on the order paper for the 8th January. Mr. Irromer asked the Home Secretary whether he had yet referred to the Advisory Council the question of the desirability of reintroducing corporal punishment and extending its application to all crimes of violence against the person. Mr. N. Pannell asked if the Home Secretary had decided to refer the question of restoring the penalty of corporal punishment to his Advisory Council and when the Council could be expected to report.

Mr. R. A. Butler replied that he had asked his Advisory Council on the Treatment of Offenders "to consider whether there are grounds for reintroducing any form of corporal punishment as a judicial penalty in respect of any categories of offences and of offenders". It was too early to say when the Council would be likely to report.

Costs Against Police

Mr. Marcus Lipton asked the Home Secretary what costs and damages had been paid to aggrieved citizens out of public funds in 1957, 1958 and 1959, respectively.

Mr. David Renton, Joint Under-Secretary of State, who replied, said he understood that Mr. Lipton had in mind cases in which costs and damages were awarded against members of police forces. He had no particulars concerning provincial forces, but there had been one such case in the Metropolitan Police in the years in question. In that case damages of £100 for false imprisonment, and £2,500 for malicious prosecution, were awarded. The £100 had been paid, but the judgment in respect of malicious prosecution was the subject of an appeal. Costs were also awarded, but no bill of costs had yet been received.

Mr. Lipton asked whether the Minister agreed that, judging from reports, it appeared that the number of cases in which costs had been awarded against the police, not only in London but outside, was increasing. Had he any evidence that that was so? If it was so, what could be done to avoid this very unsatisfactory development?

Mr. Renton said that was a somewhat different question, but his main answer indicated that in the last three years there had certainly not been any evidence that the number of these cases had been increasing.

Book Review

PRINCIPLES OF PROSECUTION

The Criminal Prosecution in England: By Sir Patrick Devlin
(Oxford University Press: 15s.)

IN 1957 Sir Patrick Devlin, an English High Court Judge, delivered the Sherrill Lectures at the Law School at Yale University, U.S.A., and in the following year they were published by the Yale University Press. In his present book Sir Patrick has brought the material up to date and included some references to recent cases.

Like most reprinted lectures they read much better if they are read aloud, for that is the original intention of their composition. But I would not go so far as to suggest that this book should be read aloud to the family circle—for it is a work intended for those interested in the workings of a portion of the English criminal law. The book is concerned with the prosecution for crime from the time of arrest until the time of arraignment, and it deals with the rights and duties of the Crown and of the accused while the case for the prosecution is being prepared. It does not deal with the trial itself, but with police investigations, arrest, and detention of the accused, the proceedings before the examining magistrates and the preparation and preferment of the indictment.

It is written in a most readable style and should appeal not only to all those whose work takes them into the criminal courts, but also to officers concerned generally with prosecution.

It is always possible in a work of this character to find errors, mainly perhaps of omission, such as: "Any danger that a detective-minded coroner might pursue his own line of enquiry independently of the police and perhaps interfere with theirs was removed in 1926, when it was provided by statute (Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1926, sec. 20) that if the police make a charge before the examining justices, the coroner is to adjourn the inquest". This only in fact applies when some person has been charged with murder, manslaughter, or infanticide. There are a number of charges that may be made arising out of a death such as dangerous driving, abortion, or child neglect that do not require by statute the

Coroner to adjourn his inquest, though there has been judicial dicta stating that it is the duty of the Coroner to adjourn. However, if a charge of causing a death by dangerous driving under the Road Traffic Act, 1956, Sec. 8(1) is made, Sec. 20 of the Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1926, applies by virtue of sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Act of 1956.

One other slight error I observed. The learned author states that the granting of bail, except in cases of murder and treason, is discretionary. Magistrates can grant bail in murder cases and I have known them to do so, though on very rare occasions. Magistrates cannot grant bail in cases of treason. Bail in these cases can only be granted by order of a judge of the High Court or the Secretary of State (Magistrates' Courts Act, sec. 8).

However these insignificant omissions do not amount to anything worth while and only the most caustic critic would carp at them, for they are clearly errors rather of editing than of composition.

Perhaps to police officers the most interesting and instructive part of the book is that dealing with Interrogation, Arrest, and Detention. Here is set out not only the steps an officer should take but explains why such steps are necessary before matters can be received in evidence. Any officer who when interrogating a suspect follows the advice given cannot fail to be sure that the resulting statement will be received in evidence.

It is now well known that there is no objection to two police officers collaborating when making up their notes of an interview that they have had with a third person and this practice received judicial sanction by the Court of Criminal Appeal in *R. v. Pass* (1953). In the book the author mentions that in the unreported case of *R. v. Adams* (1957) the police officer in charge of the case decided that there was no particular merit in each officer copying down the joint version in his note book and accordingly, after collaboration, the joint version was put

down in only one note book, which each officer used when in the box. This departure from precedent shocked defence counsel, but the judge in summing-up told the jury that he could not find anything wrong with it. This kind of information is very useful to police officers who may at any moment be called upon to interrogate suspects.

Dealing with the taking of statements from prisoners it is said that a prisoner should be encouraged to write out his own statement. This bald statement of fact, if unqualified, is in my view stating the Judges' Rule on the subject a little too high. The Rule in question states: "If the person making the statement would prefer to write it out himself and his degree of education is enough to enable him to do so, he should be encouraged to do so and should be supplied with writing materials." Before the police should encourage the prisoner to write out his own statement he should express a desire to do so and the police should be satisfied that his degree of education is enough to enable him to do so. The learned author acknowledges this point for in a later paragraph dealing with the taking of statements he says: "Questions that are intended to elicit the facts are always permissible; and it is obvious that in the case of an uneducated or loquacious man a great deal of editing is sometimes necessary before the statement can be made intelligible at all."

The great disadvantage of permitting an accused person to write his own statement, unless he expresses a desire to do so, is that he is not likely to keep to the point, he is likely to include matters that are not germane to the issue, and he may well not include matters that are in his favour. The writing of a statement including all the essential matters, excluding extraneous matters, and putting it all in a concise form is a very difficult matter.

The learned judge stresses the need for the statement to be written down as nearly as possible in the actual words used, provided that they are intelligible. They should not be translated into "Official" vocabulary, a course which may create a misleading impression as to the genuineness of the statement. I

Continued on page 91



Membership Now Reaches 800

WE are glad to report in this month's news that membership of the Association is still increasing week by week, and now stands at the good figure of 800. Of this total figure no less than 310 members are resident in the Midland Region, which has its own branch, and 145 are resident in the Lancashire Region which, following recent discussions and planning, is shortly to have its own branch. These figures certainly reflect the view which is unanimously held by the Council that growth of membership and support for the Association will be stimulated and encouraged by the setting up of local branches in the regions. Members of the Country Section of the Association may rest assured that the Council is sparing no effort in its endeavours to achieve this objective, and the Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the help which members in all parts of the country are giving by recruiting new members and thus making it possible to achieve our common aim.

For those officers not yet fully acquainted with the Association's structure, it should be explained that the Country Section embraces all those members who at the moment are not within any particular branch. Branches will be formed as membership increases in areas, and officers wishing to join should contact the chairman whose address is given below.

Key Year Ahead

The Editorial of last month's issue of the *Gazette* opened with the words "It could be that 1960 will be looked back upon as a key year by the police and the industrial security movement". We should like to echo these words, and to say that in our humble opinion the progress, development, and activities of the Association during 1960 will in no small way contribute to the truth of this prophecy. Industrial security officers all over the country are giving their services voluntarily to help the Association achieve its purpose, namely, to benefit the individual member, and to establish and improve the profession which he serves. Their efforts must succeed.

March, 1960

TRAINING COURSE PLACES FILLED

There has been an extremely fine response to the arranging of the fourth basic training course. All the vacancies on the course, which is being held on March 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th, are now taken up, and students will be attending from Scotland, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, in addition to the Midlands. The demand for vacancies on this course has once again provided convincing evidence of the need for similar courses to be held in other centres.

Subscriptions Request

The Council would like to take this opportunity of reminding all those members who have not yet sent in their renewal subscriptions for 1960. From the very small annual subscription of 2s. 6d. per member, it is just not possible to afford to send individual reminders by post, and we are sure that our members will appreciate this. If your subscription is still unpaid, will you please send it along?

All communications to the Industrial Police Association should be addressed as follows:

Mr. D. V. Young, M.B.E., Chairman, Industrial Police Association, 20 Wycombe Road, Birmingham, 28.

"Principles of Prosecution" continued

regard this as most important because a statement taken from an uneducated accused that contains slang or indeed bad language rings truer than one which is couched in more polite language. Police officers I feel are, on occasions, inclined to think that courts are likely to be shocked by the use of bad language and may wish to protect the ears of the court from the offending words. I have little doubt that no court would be shocked by the use of such language. I remember on one occasion, for instance, a police officer gave evidence in the following terms. "At 2 a.m. on the 1st instant I went to the prisoner's house and there in a room on the first floor I saw the accused asleep in bed. I awoke him, informed him who I was, told him that I had a warrant for his arrest, read the warrant to him, and informed him that I was proposing to take him to the police station." But when the accused gave evidence his version of the affair was as follows: "I was asleep in bed when the copper pulled the bed clothes off the bed, smacked me on my behind, and said, 'Hi, Ginger, you're in the nick!'" No one in court had any doubt as to which version was nearer to the truth!

A final point. When dealing with the hearing before the examining justices the author I feel hardly does justice to the magistrates when he says, "The magistrates will listen as attentively as they always do . . . and then commit for trial. From their point of view the proceedings are rarely more than a formality." In my experience I have found that magistrates do not treat the proceedings before them as a formality, but carefully weigh the evidence before them and decide whether or not that evidence, if uncontradicted, would be likely to convince a jury that the accused was guilty of a criminal offence.

This is a most interesting book and I can highly recommend it to all police officers who, no matter how experienced, will I am sure find in it something new and something that will be of use to them in their career.

Gerald R. Paling



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